

INSURRECTION AGAINST THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
IN NEW MEXICO AND CALIFORNIA, 1847 AND 1848.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING,

IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF JUNE 5, 1900,  
A REPORT ON THE INSURRECTION AGAINST THE MILITARY  
GOVERNMENT IN NEW MEXICO AND CALIFORNIA IN THE  
YEARS 1847 AND 1848.

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JUNE 5, 1900.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be  
printed.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, June 6, 1900.*

SIR: Pursuant to a resolution of the Senate, dated June 5, 1900, I transmit herewith such information as the files and records of the War Department contain, showing the nature and extent of the insurrection against the military authorities of the United States in New Mexico and California in the years 1847 and 1848.

Very respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT,  
*Secretary of War.*

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE UNITED STATES SENATE.

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REPORT ON THE INSURRECTION AGAINST THE MILITARY GOVERN-  
MENT IN NEW MEXICO IN 1847.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, D. C., May 31, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the official reports of the officers of the United States Army who conducted the military operations for the suppression of the insurrection against the military government established by the United States in New Mexico, and certain details connected therewith.

Historical writers have given scant attention to the incidents referred to, probably because they were far removed from the locality in which occurred the more stirring events of the same period. But the questions now occupying the public mind give new interest and increased value to these almost forgotten incidents in our national history.

The conquest of New Mexico by the military forces of the United States was accomplished by the campaign of 1846. (Leitensdorfer v. Webb, 20 How., 176.)

In compliance with instructions given by the President, the officer in command, General Kearny, organized a civil government for the occupied territory, and filled the executive and judicial offices by appointment.

These civil functionaries thus appointed entered upon the discharge of their duties in apparent unconsciousness of exposure to more than ordinary peril.

In December, 1846, the native inhabitants organized a conspiracy to overthrow the United States authority in New Mexico. On the night of January 15, 1847, the governor, Charles Bent; the sheriff, Stephen Lee; the circuit attorney, James W. Leal; the prefect, Cornelio Vigil, and a number of others, citizens and officials of the United States, and Mexican supporters of the United States authority, were assassinated in the town of San Fernando de Taos. On the same night seven other Americans were killed at Arroya Hondo and two at Rio Colorado.

It was soon apparent that the insurrection was general and the purpose was to kill all the Americans and those Mexicans who had accepted office under the American Government.

Col. Sterling Price was then commander of the army in New Mexico, with headquarters at Santa Fe. He learned of the uprising and attendant atrocities on January 20, 1847, and that the army of insurrection was marching on Santa Fe and the force increasing by enlistments of the inhabitants along the line of march. He deemed it advisable to engage the enemy as soon as possible. He detached a force of about 400 men of his command and marched to meet the approaching insurgents.

He found the insurgents posted in a strong position on the heights and in the houses below on the outskirts of the village of Cañada. The Americans immediately formed in line of battle. The enemy discovered that Colonel Price's artillery and wagon train was some distance in the rear and attempted to capture it, but the attempt was frustrated.

The artillery coming up, the battle was opened with a cannonade and general firing, which lasted for about two hours. Colonel Price then ordered an assault on the position held by the enemy opposite his right flank. The assault was successful and the enemy dislodged. Thereupon Colonel Price ordered a general assault, which was also successful, and the enemy retreated. The approach of night and the character of the ground prevented pursuit. The American loss in killed and wounded was 8 men, among them First Lieutenant Irvine. The Mexican loss was 36 killed; wounded not ascertained.

The next morning the enemy were found to have taken a position on some heights not far distant, but on the approach of the Americans the insurgents retreated.

On the 29th of January, 1847, the Americans again encountered the

insurgents at Embudo, a strong pass in the mountains, through which the men could scarcely march three abreast. Between six and seven hundred of the enemy were posted along the slopes of the mountains, and there they were attacked by a detachment of 180 men under Captain Burgwin, who dislodged them with a loss to the Mexicans of 20 killed and 60 wounded. The American loss was 1 killed and 1 severely wounded.

On the 1st of February, 1847, the main body, under Colonel Price, reached the top of Taos Mountain, which was covered with snow 2 feet deep. The marches of the 1st and 2d of February were through this snow, the men being marched in front of the artillery and wagons in order to break a road. On the 3d the American force marched through Fernando de Taos, the town in which Governor Bent and party had been seized and atrociously murdered. The town had been abandoned by the enemy, who had taken a position at the near-by town known as Pueblo de Taos. That was a strongly fortified point. The key to the position was a large church and two large buildings ascending in a pyramidal form seven stories high and pierced with embrasures for rifles. Around these was a wall, and within them the enemy had taken position. The Americans brought up their artillery and battered the church and walls for two hours, but the cannoading was ineffective and the Americans retreated to Fernando.

On the morning of February 4, 1847, the Americans again advanced to renew the assault. The artillery was brought to bear against the two sides of the church. After battering it for two hours, a charge was made under the leadership of Captain Burgwin, of the First Dragoons. In this assault Captain Burgwin and several of his men were killed, but the assault was unavailing. The church walls were still unpenetrated by the artillery. Ladders were then made and holes cut in the wall with axes, through which the soldiers with their hands threw fire and lighted shells into the church. Another assault was made on the church door, which again failed with loss. The artillery was then brought up within 60 yards, and after 16 rounds one of the holes which had been cut with the axes was widened into a practicable breach, through which a storming party entered, dislodged the enemy, and took possession of the church. This ended the hostilities of the day. The enemy still occupied the two large buildings. The next morning the enemy surrendered. The number of insurgents engaged in this fight was between 600 and 700. The loss sustained by them was about 150 killed. The number wounded is not known. The American loss in killed and wounded was 52.

Under date of January 23 Captain Hendley, commanding at Las Vegas, N. Mex., reported to Colonel Price as follows:

Every town and village except this (I did not give it time) and Tucoloti have declared in favor of the insurrection. The whole population appear ripe for the insurrection.

The insurrection in eastern New Mexico was inaugurated by killing 8 Americans at Mora on January 20, 1847. In pursuance of his duty, to suppress the insurrection in that locality, Captain Hendley concentrated his grazing guards at Las Vegas, and on January 24, 1847, proceeded in force to Mora. He found a body of Mexicans in arms, prepared to defend the town. A general engagement ensued, the Mexicans retreating and firing from the windows of the houses. A body of insurgents had taken possession of an old fort and opened fire upon the Americans. Captain Hendley succeeded in taking possession of a

part of the fort, and was preparing to burn it when he fell mortally wounded, dying in a few minutes. The Americans, having no artillery with which to reduce the fort, retired to Las Vegas. In the battle of Mora the insurgents suffered a loss of 25 killed and 15 taken prisoners. The American loss was 1 killed and 3 wounded. Later in the season Captain Morin, who succeeded Captain Hendley, renewed the attack upon Mora with a body of men and artillery and razed the towns (Upper and Lower Mora) to the ground.

The principal leader of the insurrection was Manuel Cortez. After the defeat at Puebla de Taos Cortez fled across the mountains into eastern New Mexico and continued the hostilities.

In May, 1847, a wagon train and a grazing party were attacked by the insurgents and one or two men killed and a large number of horses and mules captured. Major Edmonson pursued this force and encountered them, nearly 400 strong, in a canyon of the Red River. The American forces engaged them, but after fighting several hours and succeeding in killing and wounding many Mexicans were unable to dislodge the enemy and retired. The next day he found the enemy had fled during the night.

In June, 1847, the insurrection affected Las Vegas. Lieut. R. T. Brown and 3 soldiers were killed. Thereupon Major Edmonson made an attack and killed 10 or 12 men. He also found evidence of a new revolt, and captured the town, sent about 50 citizens as prisoners to Santa Fe, and burned a mill belonging to the alcalde, whom he thought was implicated in the revolt.

In July, 1847, a party of 31 American soldiers was attacked at La Cienega, and Lieutenant Larkin and 5 other men were killed. On the approach of reinforcements the insurgents fled and were not apprehended.

During the month (July, 1847) Major Edmonson is said to have destroyed the town of Las Pias, with considerable loss to the insurgents, and to have marched by way of Anton Chico to La Cuesta, where were about 400 insurgents under Cortez. Fifty prisoners were taken, the main body of the enemy escaping into the mountains. (See Bancroft's Arizona and New Mexico, p. 435, Bancroft's Works, vol. 17.)

Thereafter the insurrection dwindled into depredations committed by various bands of Indians, instigated and led by Mexicans. Hardly a party, large or small, traders or soldiers, crossed the plains of New Mexico without being attacked. Many men were killed and large numbers of horses, mules, and cattle driven off. A company of dragoons escorting Government funds lost 5 men killed and all their animals in June.

In the latter part of 1847 comparative safety was secured by stationing troops at various points. Of the insurgent prisoners 15 or 20, perhaps more, were tried by court-martial, sentenced to death, and executed. The others were turned over to the civil authorities of the military government for trial in the civil courts. The grand jury indicted 4 of them. The others were discharged for want of evidence or pardoned by the governor. The 4 indicted were charged with treason against the United States Government. One was tried by a jury and convicted. The prisoner challenged the jurisdiction of the civil court and assailed the indictment on the ground that he was not a citizen of the United States, nor bound to yield allegiance to that Government. Strong pressure was brought to bear in his behalf, and the district attorney, Mr. Blair, referred the matter to Washington



for instruction. Mr. Marcy, Secretary of War, advised the President as follows:

On the 26th of June, 1847, I wrote to the commanding officer of Santa Fe a letter (a copy of which accompanies this communication) in which the incorrect description of the crime in the proceedings of the court is pointed out. It is therein stated that "the territory conquered by our arms does not become, by the mere act of conquest, a permanent part of the United States, and the inhabitants of such territory are not, to the full extent of the term, citizens of the United States. It is beyond dispute that on the establishment of a temporary civil government in a conquered country the inhabitants owe obedience to it and are bound by the laws which may be adopted. They may be tried and punished for offenses. Those in New Mexico who in the late insurrection were guilty of murder, or instigated others to that crime, were liable to be punished for these acts, either by the civil or military authority, but it is not the proper use of legal terms to say that their offenses were treason committed against the United States; for to the Government of the United States—as the Government under our Constitution—it would not be correct to say that they owed allegiance. It appears by the letter of Mr. Blair, to which I have referred, that those engaged in the insurrection have been proceeded against as traitors to the United States. In this respect I think there was error, so far as relates to the designation of the offense. Their offense was against the temporary civil government of New Mexico and the laws provided for it, which that government had the right and, indeed, was bound to see executed."

For this reason the President declined to exercise the power to pardon vested in him as the chief civil magistrate of the United States, but, as commander in chief of the Army, authorized the military governor to use his discretion in the matter, and the prisoner was pardoned by the governor.

The events resulting from this insurrection did not escape the attention of Congress. That body, on July 10, 1848, passed a resolution calling upon the President for information in regard to the existence of civil governments in New Mexico and California; their form and character, by whom instituted and by what authority, and how they were maintained and supported; also whether any persons had been tried and condemned for "treason against the United States" in New Mexico.

President Polk replied to said resolution by message (dated July 17) received July 24, 1848, in which he discusses the character of military government, taking the position that such a government may exercise the "fullest rights of sovereignty." (See Ex. Doc. No. 70, first session Thirtieth Congress.)

The official documents, copies of which and extracts from which are herewith presented, are much more interesting than this inadequate sketch of their contents.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. MAGOON,  
*Law Officer, Division of Insular Affairs.*

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

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#### REPORTS AND PROCLAMATIONS REGARDING THE INSURRECTION AGAINST THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN NEW MEXICO.

President Polk, in his message to Congress dated July 24, 1848, speaking with reference to New Mexico, says:

Whilst this Territory was in our unquestioned possession as conquerors, with a population hostile to the United States, which more than once broke out in open insurrection, it was our unquestionable duty, etc. (Richardson's Comp. Messages of Pres., vol. 4, p. 597.)

[Report on discovery of conspiracy by Governor Bent.]

SANTA FE, N. MEX., *December 26, 1846.*

SIR: I have been informed indirectly that Col. A. W. Doniphan, who, in October last, marched with his regiment against the Navajo Indians, has made treaty of peace with them. Not having been officially notified of this treaty, I am not able to state the terms upon which it has been concluded; but, so far as I am able to learn, I have but little ground to hope that it will be permanent.

On the 17th instant I received information from a Mexican friendly to our Government that a conspiracy was on foot among the native Mexicans, having for its object the expulsion of the United States troops and the civil authorities from the Territory. I immediately brought into requisition every means in my power to ascertain who were the movers in the rebellion, and have succeeded in securing seven of the secondary conspirators. The military and civil officers are now both in pursuit of the two leaders and prime movers of the rebellion; but as several days have elapsed, I am apprehensive that they will have made their escape from the Territory.

So far as I am informed, this conspiracy is confined to the four northern counties of the Territory, and the men considered as leaders in the affair can not be said to be men of much standing.

After obtaining the necessary information to designate and secure the persons of the participants in the conspiracy, I thought it advisable to turn them over to the military authorities, in order that these persons might be dealt with more summarily and expeditiously than they could have been by the civil authorities.

The occurrence of this conspiracy at this early period of the occupation of the Territory will, I think, conclusively convince our Government of the necessity of maintaining here, for several years to come, an efficient military force.

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C. BENT.

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN,  
*Secretary of State of the United States.*

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[Report on the inception of hostilities and assassination of Governor Bent. (Senate Doc. No. 70, first session Thirtieth Congress, p. 18.)]

SANTA FE, *February 16, 1847.*

SIR: It becomes my melancholy duty to announce to you the death of his excellency Charles Bent, the governor of this Territory.

On the morning of the 19th ultimo he was assailed in his private dwelling, in the town of Don Fernando de Taos, by a company of Indians of the Taos Pueblo, in company with a number of the Mexican inhabitants of the town, and put to death with all the horrible details of savage barbarity. There were murdered during the same and following day 12 other Americans and 2 Mexicans in the valley of Taos, among whom were James W. Leal, circuit attorney for the northern district, Stephen L. Lee, and Cornelio Vigil (Mexican), sheriff and prefect for the county of Taos.

After the murder of Governor Bent most of the lower order of Mexicans of the valley of Taos and of the small towns in the vicinity

rose en masse and joined the Pueblo Indians in the work of pillage and murder. They organized themselves into a revolutionary army, appointed their leaders, and sent circulars to different parts of the Territory to excite the people to rebellion. Detachments from the rebels fell upon the settlement of the Poñil, where most of the Government stock was herded, all of which they drove off, and upon the town of Lode Mora, where they murdered 8 Americans. The main body of the insurgents, numbering from 1,500 to 2,000 Mexicans and Pueblo Indians, advanced towards Santa Fe, forcing into their ranks many of the better inclined on their route. Upon the first intelligence of their movements and outrages Col. Sterling Price promptly made preparations to march against them.

Colonel Price marched from this capital toward Taos on the 23d ultimo, with a force of about 400 men, with four pieces of artillery, and encountered the enemy on the 24th and 29th at Law Cañada and La Embuda, each time defeating them with considerable loss. He entered the town of Don Fernando on the evening of the 3d instant, and immediately attacked the Pueblo town, lying about 2 miles from Don Fernando, a stronghold of the Pueblo Indians, into which all the Indians and all the Mexican insurgents who had not dispersed after the previous battles had thrown themselves for a last desperate struggle. They defended the town with great bravery, but the incessant and gallant charges of Colonel Price's command succeeded in taking it on the evening of the 4th instant. What remained of the pueblo surrendered at that time at discretion, agreeing to deliver up their leader in the rebellion, who was brought in, delivered up in two or three days afterwards, and was unfortunately shot by an exasperated soldier while under charge of the guard.

Of the four principal leaders of the revolt two were slain in battle, one was taken and hanged under sentence of a court-martial, and one survives and has not yet been taken.

A small detachment of troops stationed near Lode Mora, in consequence of the murder of the 8 Americans there, dispersed and slew a number of the insurgents and utterly destroyed the town. Some 50 prisoners have been retained by the military and civil authorities for trial as being deeply implicated in the insurrection, and I deem it of the highest importance to the future peace and safety of the Territory that they should be dealt with according to the severest penalties of the laws of the United States when proved guilty as perpetrators of or participators in the late barbarous outrages.

The details of the military operations consequent upon the late disturbances will no doubt be communicated to the proper department by the colonel commanding.

The losses sustained by Americans and other citizens, by pillage, during the late insurrections, is estimated to be over \$100,000.

The rebellion seems to be crushed; but, from my experience of the character and disposition of this people, I apprehend that, should our arms meet with a reverse in Chihuahua or elsewhere, south of this territory, it would be the signal of another outbreak.

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DONACIANO VIGIL,  
*Secretary of Territory.*

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN,  
*Secretary of State of the United States.*

[Report of Colonel Price on the hostilities in vicinity of Santa Fe. Records War Department.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY IN NEW MEXICO,  
*Santa Fe, February 15, 1847.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you a short account of the recent revolutions in this Territory, and a detailed report of the operations of the forces under my command and consequent upon the rebellion.

About the 15th of December last I received information of an attempt to excite the people of this Territory against the American Government. This rebellion was headed by Tomas Ortiz and Diego Archuleta. An officer formerly in the Mexican service was seized, and on his person was found a list of all the disbanded Mexican soldiers in the vicinity of Santa Fe. Many other persons supposed to be implicated were arrested, and a full investigation proved that many of the most influential persons in the northern part of this Territory were engaged in the rebellion. All attempts to arrest Ortiz and Archuleta proved unsuccessful, and these rebels have without doubt escaped in the direction of Chihuahua.

After the arrest above mentioned and the flight of Ortiz and Archuleta the rebellion appeared to be suppressed, but this appearance was deception.

On the 14th of January Governor Bent left this city for Taos. On the 19th of the same month this valuable officer, together with five other persons, were seized at Don Fernando de Taos by the Pueblos and Mexicans and were murdered in the most inhuman manner the savages could devise. On the same day seven Americans were murdered at the Arroya Honda and two others at the Rio Colorado. The names of the unfortunate persons thus brutally butchered are as follows:

At Don Fernando de Taos: Charles Bent, governor; Stephen Lee, sheriff; James W. Leal, circuit attorney; Cornelio Vigil (a Mexican) prefect; Narcues Reaubien, son of the circuit judge; Parbleau Harvimesh (a Mexican).

At the Arroyo Hondo: Simeon Turley, Albert Turbush, William Hatfield, Louis Tolque, Peter Robert, Joseph Marshall, and William Austin.

At the Rio Colorado: Mark Head and William Harwood.

It appeared to be the object of the insurrection to put to death every American and every Mexican who had accepted office under the American Government.

News of these events reached me on the 20th of January, and letters from the rebels, calling upon the inhabitants of the Rio Abajo for aid, were intercepted. It was ascertained that the enemy was approaching this city, and that their force was continually being increased by the inhabitants of the towns along their line of march. In order to prevent the enemy from receiving any further reinforcements in that manner, I determined to meet them as soon as possible. Supposing that the detachment of the necessary troops would weaken the garrison of Santa Fe too much, I immediately ordered up from Albuquerque Major Edmonson, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers, and Captain Burgwin with their respective commands, directing Captain Burgwin to leave one company of dragoons at this post and to join me with the other. Major Edmonson was directed to remain in Santa Fe.

Captain Giddings, Company A, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers, was also ordered to join me with his company upon the arrival of Captain Burgwin.

Leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Willock in command of this post, on the 23d of January I marched from this place at the head of Companies D, Captain McMillin; K, Captain Williams; L, Captain Slack; M, Captain Halley, and N, Captain Barber, of the Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers; Captain Angney's battalion of infantry and a company of Santa Fe volunteers, commanded by Captain St. Vrain. I also took with me four mountain howitzers, which I placed under the command of Lieut. A. B. Dyer, of the ordnance. My whole force composed 353 rank and file, and, with the exception of Captain St. Vrain's company, were all dismounted. On the march Captain Williams was taken sick, and the command of Company K devolved upon Lieut. B. Y. White. On the 24th of January, at half-past 1 p. m., our advance (Captain St. Vrain's company) discovered the enemy in considerable force near the town of Cañada, their position at that time being in the valley bordering the Rio del Morte. Preparations were immediately made by me to attack them, and it became necessary for the troops to march more rapidly than the ammunition and provision wagons could travel in order to prevent the escape of the enemy, or to frustrate them in any attempt they might make to occupy commanding positions. As I entered the valley I discovered them beyond the creek on which the town is situated and in full possession of the heights commanding the road to Cañada and of three strong houses at the bases of the hills. My line of battle was immediately formed. The artillery, consisting of four 12-pound mountain howitzers, being thrown forward on the left flank and beyond the creek, the dismounted men occupying a position where they would be in some degree protected by the high bluff bank of the stream from the fire of the enemy until the wagon train could be brought up, the artillery opened on the houses occupied by the enemy and on the more distant height on which alone the guns could be brought to bear.

The enemy discovering the wagons to be more than a mile in the rear sent a large party to cut them off, and it became necessary to detach Captain St. Vrain's company for their protection. This service was rendered in the most satisfactory manner. As soon as the wagon train had been brought up, I ordered Captain Angney to charge with his battalion of infantry, and dislodge the enemy from the house opposite the right flank, and from which a warm fire was being poured on us; this was done in the most gallant manner. A charge was then ordered to be made upon all the points occupied by the enemy in any force. Captain Angney with his command, supported by Lieutenant White's company, charged up one hill, while Captain St. Vrain's company turned the same in order to cut off the enemy when in retreat. The artillery, supported by Captains McMillen, Barber, and Slack, with their respective companies, at the same time took possession of some houses (inclosed by a strong corral densely wooded with fruit trees, from which a brisk fire was kept up by the enemy) and of the heights beyond them. Captain Halley's company was ordered to support Captain Angney. In a few minutes my troops had dislodged the enemy at all points, and they were flying in every direction. The nature of the ground rendered pursuit hopeless, and it being near night I ordered the troops to take up quarters in the town. The number of the enemy were about 1,500. Lieutenant Irvine was wounded. In the charge



my loss was 2 killed and 6 wounded—of the killed one was a teamster who volunteered in Captain Angney's company. The loss of the enemy was 36 killed; wounded not ascertained.

The next morning the enemy showed themselves in some force (I think not less than 400) on the distant heights. Leaving a strong guard in the town, I marched in pursuit of them; but they were so shy and retreated so rapidly that, finding it impossible to get near them, I returned to town.

While at Cañada a number of the horses belonging to Captain Slack's company were brought in by Lieutenant Holcomb.

On the 27th I advanced up the Rio del Morte as far as Luceras, where, early on the 28th, I was joined by Captain Burgwin, commanding Company G, First Dragoons, and Company A, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers, commanded by Lieutenant Boone. Captain Burgwin's command was dismounted, and great credit is due to him and his officers and men for the rapidity with which a march so long and arduous was performed. At the same time Lieutenant Wilson, First Dragoons, who had volunteered his services, came up with a 6-pounder which had been sent for from Cañada.

My whole force now comprised 479, rank and file. On the 29th I marched to La Joya, where I learned that a party of 60 or 80 of the enemy had posted themselves on the steep slopes of the mountains which rise on each side of the canyon or gorge which leads to Embudo. Finding the road by Embudo impracticable for artillery or wagons I detached Captain Burgwin in that direction with his own company of dragoons and the companies commanded by Captain St. Vrain and Lieutenant White. This detachment comprised 180, rank and file.

By my permission Adj. R. Walker, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers, accompanied Captain Burgwin. Lieutenant Wilson, First Dragoons, also volunteered his services as a private in Captain St. Vrain's company.

Captain Burgwin, pushing forward, discovered the enemy to the number of between six and seven hundred posted on the sides of the mountains just where the gorge becomes so contracted as scarcely to admit of three men marching abreast.

The rapid slopes of the mountains rendered the enemy's position very strong, and its strength was increased by the dense masses of cedar and large fragments of rock which everywhere offered them shelter. The action was commenced by Captain St. Vrain, who, dismounting his men, ascended the mountain on the left, doing much execution. Flanking parties were thrown out on either side commanded, respectively, by Lieutenant White, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers, and by Lieutenants McIlvaine and Taylor, First Dragoons. These parties ascended the hills rapidly, and the enemy soon began to retire in the direction of Embudo, bounding along the steep and rugged sides of the mountain with a speed that defied pursuit. The firing at the pass of Embudo had been heard at La Joya, and Captain Slack, with 25 mounted men, had been immediately dispatched thither. He now arrived and rendered excellent service by relieving Lieutenant White, whose men were much fatigued. Lieutenants McIlvaine and Taylor were also recalled, and Lieutenant Ingalls was directed to lead a flanking party on the right slope while Captain Slack performed the same duty on the left. The enemy having by this time retreated beyond our reach, Captain Burgwin marched

through the defile, and debouching into the open valley in which Embudo is situated, recalled the flanking parties and entered that town without opposition, several persons meeting him with a white flag.

Our loss in this action was 1 man killed and 1 severely wounded, both belonging to Captain St. Vrain's company. The loss of the enemy was about 20 killed and 60 wounded. Thus ended the battle of the Pass of Embudo.

On the 30th Captain Burgwin marched to Trampas, where he was directed to await the arrival of the main body, which, on account of the artillery and wagons, was forced to pursue a more southern route. On the 31st I reached Trampas, and, being joined by Captain Burgwin, marched on to Chamisal with the whole command. On the 1st of February we reached the summit of the Taos Mountain, which was covered with snow to the depth of 2 feet, and on the 2d quartered at a small village called Rio Chicito, in the entrance of the valley of Taos. The marches of the 1st and 2d were through deep snow. Many of the men were frostbitten, and all were very much jaded with the exertions necessary to travel over unbeaten roads, being marched in front of the artillery and wagons in order to break a road through the snow. The constancy and patience with which the troops bore these hardships deserve all commendation, and can not be excelled by the most veteran soldiers. On the 3d I marched through Don Fernando Taos, and finding that the enemy had fortified themselves in the Pueblo de Taos, proceeded to that place. I found it a place of great strength, being surrounded by adobe walls and strong pickets. Within the inclosures and near the northern and southern walls arose two large buildings of irregular pyramidal form to the height of seven or eight stories. Each of these buildings was capable of sheltering 500 or 600 men. Besides these, there were many smaller buildings, and the large church of the town was situated in the northwestern angle, a small passage being left between it and the outer wall. The exterior wall and all the inclosed buildings were pierced for rifles. The town was admirably calculated for defense, every point of the exterior walls and pickets being flanked by some projecting building, as will be seen from the inclosed drawing.

After having reconnoitered the town I selected the western flank of the church as the point of attack, and about 2 o'clock p. m. Lieutenant Dyer was ordered to open his battery at the distance of about 250 yards. A fire was kept up by the 6-pounder and the howitzers for about two hours and a half, when, as the ammunition wagon had not yet come up and the troops were suffering from cold and fatigue, I returned to Don Fernando. Early on the morning of the 4th I again advanced upon Pueblo. Posting the dragoons under Captain Burgwin about 260 yards from the western flank of the church, I ordered the mounted men under Captains St. Vrain and Slack to a position on the opposite side of the town, whence they could discover and intercept any fugitives who might attempt to escape toward the mountains or in the direction of Don Fernando. The residue of the troops took ground about 300 yards from the northern wall. Here, too, Lieutenant Dyer established himself with the 6-pounder and two howitzers, while Lieutenant Hassandaubel, of Major Clark's battalion Light Infantry, remained with Captain Burgwin in command of two howitzers. By this arrangement a cross fire was obtained, sweeping the front and eastern flank of the church. All these arrangements having been made, the

batteries opened upon the town at 9 o'clock a. m. At 11 o'clock, finding it impossible to break the walls of the church with the 6-pounder and howitzer, I determined to storm that building. At a signal Captain Burgwin, at the head of his own company and that of Captain McMillins, charged the western flank of the church, while Captain Angney, Infantry Battalion, and Captain Barber and Lieutenant Boone, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers, charged the northern wall.

As soon as the troops above mentioned had established themselves under the western wall of the church, axes were used in the attempt to breach it; and, a temporary ladder having been made, the roof was fired. About this time Captain Burgwin, at the head of a small party, left the cover afforded by the flank of the church, and penetrating into the corral in front of that building endeavored to force the door. In this exposed situation Captain Burgwin received a severe wound, which deprived me of his valuable services, and of which he died on the 7th instant. Lieutenants McIlvaine, First Dragoons, and Royall and Lackland, Second Regiment Mounted Volunteers, accompanied Captain Burgwin into the corral; but the attempt on the church door proved fruitless and they were compelled to retire behind the wall. In the meantime small holes had been cut into the western wall and shells were thrown in by hand, doing good execution. The 6-pounder was now brought around by Lieutenant Wilson, who, at the distance of 200 yards, poured a heavy fire of grape into the town. The enemy during all this time kept up a destructive fire upon our troops. About half past 3 o'clock the 6-pounder was run up within 60 yards of the church, and after 10 rounds one of the holes which had been cut with the axes was widened into a practicable breach. The gun was now run up within 10 yards of the wall. A shell was thrown in—three rounds of grape were poured into the breach. The storming party, among whom were Lieutenant Dyer, of the ordnance, and Lieutenants Wilson and Taylor, First Dragoons, entered and took possession of the church without opposition. The interior was filled with dense smoke, but for which circumstance our storming party would have suffered great loss. A few of the enemy were seen in the gallery, where an open door admitted the air, but they retired without firing a gun. The troops left to support the battery on the north were now ordered to charge on that side. The enemy abandoned the western part of the town. Many took refuge in the large houses on the east, while others endeavored to escape toward the mountains. These latter were pursued by the mounted men under Captains Slack and St. Vrain, who killed 51 of them, only 2 or 3 men escaping.

It was now night and our troops were quietly quartered in the houses which the enemy had abandoned. On the next morning the enemy sued for peace, and thinking the severe loss they had sustained would prove a salutary lesson, I granted their supplication, on the condition that they should deliver up to me Tomas, one of their principal men, who had instigated and been actively engaged in the murder of Governor Bent and others. The number of the enemy at the battle of Pueblo de Taos was between 600 and 700. Of these about 150 were killed; wounded not known. Our own loss was 7 killed and 45 wounded. Many of the wounded have since died.

The principal leaders in this insurrection were Tafoya, Pablo Chavis, Pablo Montoya, Cortez, and Tomas, a Pueblo Indian. Of these,

Tafoya was killed at Cañada; Chavis was killed at Pueblo; Montoya was hanged at Don Fernando on the 7th instant, and Tomas was shot by a private while in the guardroom at the latter town. Cortez is still at large. This person was at the head of the rebels in the valley of the Mora. For the operations in that quarter I refer you to the subjoined letters from Captains Henley, Separate Battalion Missouri Mounted Volunteers, and Murphy, of the infantry, and Lieutenant McKamey, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers.

In the battles of Cañada, Embudo, and Pueblo de Taos the officers and men behaved admirably. Where all conducted themselves gallantly, I consider it improper to distinguish individuals, as such discrimination might operate prejudicially against the just claims of others.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STERLING PRICE,

*Colonel Commanding the Army in New Mexico.*

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY,

*Washington, D. C.*

SANTA FE, *February 16, 1847.*

SIR: In obedience to the order of my superior officer, Maj. Lewis M. Clark, commanding the battalion of Missouri Light Artillery, to inform you in his absence from this place of all interesting events which may transpire here, and in which the part of his battalion, stationed at Santa Fe, under my command, may participate, I avail myself of this opportunity to address a few lines to you.

In the last warlike events in New Mexico, from the 23d of January to the 11th of February last, 26 men of said battalion, under the command of Lieut. F. Hassendeubel, of my company, and Lieutenant Deyer, of the Regular Army, took such a share as will do great honor to the battalion to which they belong. In the first fight at Cañada, on the 24th of January last, the artillery alone was exposed to the fire of the enemy for nearly two hours, which was so effective as to wound 5 men out of 20, and with the exception of one man, all had their clothes perforated by bullets. But they all stood like walls and behaved with such coolness and valor as if they had been veterans and not volunteers, hearing for the first time in their lives the bullets of the enemy whistling by. The same soldier-like and laudable spirit animated them in the next two fights before Pueblo de Taos, where three of them were wounded.

This Pueblo de Taos is one of the most remarkable places in New Mexico, and I take the liberty to add hereto a plan of the same drawn by Lieutenant Hassendeubel at the very place. The two largest buildings are seven stories high; the base covers nearly an acre, and the walls are from 4 to 6 feet thick. The entrance to these houses is from above, and the interior of this labyrinth, as I may call it, is divided and partitioned off in innumerable small rooms, it is believed in nearly three hundred.

The structure of the houses in New Mexico is such as to make the use of mortars necessary that will throw a shell of at least 50 pounds. The walls are generally 3 feet thick and built of "adobes," a sort of sun-dried brick of a very soft quality, through which a ball of a 12-

pounder will pass without doing any more damage, which in houses of brick or stone is quite different.

I desired very much to participate in these fights myself, but the orders of Colonel Price detained me here in Santa Fe, and when at last an order arrived commanding me to join Colonel Price with 50 men and a 24-pounder howitzer, and I had already started, a counter order reached me on the march commanding me to return to Santa Fe, as Pueblo de Taos was taken and the enemy had surrendered.

I reposed full confidence in my men, when sending them off to fight the battles of their country, that they would conduct themselves as soldiers and men of honor, and, according to the testimony of all officers who were present in this campaign, they have so distinguished themselves by their courage and good discipline as to exceed my just expectations. A great deal of praise is due to Lieutenant Hassen-deubel, who, by his brave conduct and his coolness, set a worthy example to the men under his command.

I have, sir, the honor to sign myself your most obedient and humble servant,

WOLDEMAR FISCHER,  
*Captain, Commanding Company B, Missouri  
Light Artillery, and Commander of Fort Maroy.*

Brig. Gen. R. JONES,  
*Adjutant-General, U. S. A.*

*List of the killed and wounded at Cañada, Embudo, and Pueblo de Taos.*

AT THE BATTLE OF CAÑADA, JANUARY 24, 1847.

Names.	Rank.	Company.	Regiment and battalion.	Remarks.
<b>Killed:</b>				
Graham.....	Private .....	Company B.....	Infantry battalion	In employ quarter-
G. Messersmith ..	Teamster.....	Volunteered for the occasion.	.....do .....	master.
<b>Wounded:</b>				
Irvine.....	First lieutenant ..	Company A .....	.....do .....	Acting adjutant
John Pace .....	Private .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	battalion.
Caspers .....	First sergeant ....	B, mounted artil-	Lieutenant Dyer's	Slightly.
Aulmon.....	Private.....	.....do .....	detachment..	Do.
Murphy.....	.....do .....	C, artillery .....	.....do .....	Severely.
Mezer.....	.....do .....	B, artillery .....	.....do .....	

AT THE BATTLE OF EMBUDO, JANUARY 29, 1847.

<b>Killed:</b>				
Papin.....	Private .....	Santa Fe Volun-	Capt. St. Vrain's	
<b>Wounded:</b>		teers.	company.	
Dick .....	(A negro) .....	Governor Bents's.	Servant .....	Severely wounded.

AT PUEBLO DE TAOS, ON FEBRUARY 4, 1847.

<b>Killed:</b>				
Atkins .....	Teamster .....	Ammunition	Employ of quar-	
<b>Wounded:</b>		wagon.	termaster.	
Alfred L. Caldwell.	First sergeant ....	K. Lieutenant	Second Regiment	Mortally wounded
		White.	Missouri Volun-	(since dead).
James Austin .....	Private .....	.....do .....	teers.	Do.
James W. Jones ..	Third corporal ....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Severely wounded.
Robert C. Bower ..	Private.....	A. Lieutenant	.....do .....	Do.
		E. W. Boone.		



*List of the killed and wounded at Cañada, Embudo, and Pueblo de Taos—Continued.*

AT PUEBLO DE TAOS, ON FEBRUARY 4, 1847—Continued,

Names.	Rank.	Company.	Regiment and battalion.	Remarks.
Wounded—Cont'd: Sam'l. Lewis.....	Private .....	M, Captain Halley.	Second Regiment Missouri Volun- teers.	Severely wounded.
T. G. West .....	First Lieutenant ..	N, Captain Barbee.	.....do .....	Do.
I. H. Callaway.....	Private .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
John Nagel .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
John J. Sights .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Sam H. McMillan.	Captain .....	D, Captain McMil- lan.	.....do .....	Do.
Henry Fender.....	Private .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Dangerously wounded.
Geo. W. Johnson.	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Robt. Hewitt.....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Slightly wounded.
Geo. W. Howser .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Wm. Ducoing .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
John Mansfield .....	Lieutenant .....	L, Captain Slack.	.....do .....	Do.
Jacob Noon .....	Private .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Severely wounded.
Wm. Gibbons .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Slightly wounded.
G. B. Ross .....	First sergeant .....	G, Captain Burg- win.	First U. S. Dra- goons.	Killed.
Brooks .....	Private .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Beebes .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Levey .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Hansuker .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Captain Burgwin.	Captain .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Mortally wounded (since dead).
I. Vanroe .....	Sergeant .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Severely wounded.
C. Ingleman .....	Corporal .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
I. L. Linneman .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
S. Blodget .....	Private .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
S. W. Crain .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
R. Deets .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
G. F. Sickenberg .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
I. Truax .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Severely wounded (since dead).
Hagenbagh .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Severely wounded.
Anderson .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Beach .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Slightly wounded.
Hutton .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Hillerman .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Walker, 1st .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Schneider .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Severely wounded (since dead).
Shay .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Severely wounded.
Near .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Bremen .....	.....do .....	I, Captain Burg- win.	.....do .....	Do.
Bielfeld .....	.....do .....	B, Missouri Artil- lery.	Lieutenant Dyer's detachment.	Do.
Jod .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Kohn .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Slightly wounded.
Hart .....	Sergeant .....	Captain Angney..	Infantry battalion	Killed.
Ferguson .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Badly wounded.
Aull .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Do.
Van Valkenberg..	Lieutenant .....	B, Captain Ang- ney.	.....do .....	Mortally wounded (since dead).
Gold .....	Private .....	Santa Fe Volun- teers.	Captain St. Vrain	Severely wounded.
Mitchell .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	.....do .....	Slightly wounded.

In addition to the foregoing, Captain Hendly was killed at the town of Mora on the 24th of January last, and on the same day three men were wounded at the same place.

SANTA FE, N. MEX., *February 15, 1847.*

SIR: It becomes my painful duty to inform you of the death of Capt. I. H. K. Burgwin, First Dragoons. The official information I received from Lieut. A. B. Dyer of the Ordnance Corps, is to this effect:

Battle at Embudo January 29; Captain Burgwin, commanding 180 men (Americans), defeated 1,500 Mexicans and Indians, killing 20, wounding 50 or 60; Americans' loss, 1 killed and 1 wounded.

Battle of Pueblo de Taos February 4, 1847. Our troops (under command of Colonel Price), 400; Mexicans and Indians, 1,000. Our loss, 12 now dead, 52 wounded. The enemy defeated; loss, 152 killed, number of wounded not known. Captain Burgwin shot through the right breast at 12.30 p. m.; died at quarter past 7 a. m., February 7, 1847.

The body of Captain B. was brought to this place and buried with military honors by my company on the 13th instant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. N. GRIER,  
*Captain, First Dragoons.*

Lieut. H. W. STAUNTON,  
*Acting Adjutant First Dragoons, Fort Leavenworth, Mo.*

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DON FERNANDO DE TAOS, N. MEX., *February 16, 1847.*

COLONEL: I have the honor herewith to transmit the monthly return of the late Capt. I. H. K. Burgwin's company (G, First Dragoons) for the month of January, 1847.

I have signed the return myself, and in order to explain it beg leave to submit the following statement.

On January 23 Captain Burgwin marched with his company from Albuquerque, a town on the Rio Grande, 70 miles distant from Santa Fe to join Colonel Price. He reached the latter place on January 26. On 28th he joined Colonel Price with his company at a town on the Rio Arriba, 35 miles from Santa Fe in the direction of Taos.

On the 29th he was sent forward in command of a detachment made up of his own company and about 100 volunteers, to drive the enemy from a stronghold in a mountain pass near a town called Embudo. Early in the day Captain Burgwin found the enemy posted on the heights in the ravines and behind all trees and rocks where shelter could be found. The enemy numbered about 500, consisting of Mexicans and Pueblo Indians. Captain Burgwin at once engaged the enemy by ordering Captain St. Vrain's company of citizens and mountain men to dismount and skirmish on the left of the road.

At the same time I was ordered to throw out the dragoons on the right and left. The action lasted about two and one-half hours. The enemy was put to flight with considerable loss and was pursued more than 2 miles from hill to hill through the ravines, and was completely routed and driven beyond the town of Embudo, of which Captain Burgwin took possession and in which his command camped on the night of 29th. In this engagement Captain Burgwin lost 1 man killed and 1 wounded. The enemy lost, so far as could be ascertained, about 20 killed and 60 wounded.

On January 30 Captain Burgwin joined Colonel Price at a town called Trampas, 15 miles from Embudo. On 31st the march was continued toward Taos Valley, which Colonel Price reached on the evening of February 2 with his command. On the evening of 3d a march of 6 miles was made to the Pueblo de Taos.

After an attempt to reduce the place by a bombardment it was found impracticable, and Colonel Price returned to Don Fernando de Taos for the night. Early on the morning of 4th the town of Pueblo de Taos, in which the enemy to the number of 1,000 was fortified, was attacked at different points by the artillery and musketeers.

At about 11 o'clock a. m. Captain Burgwin, in command of his own

company and a part of Captain McMillins's company, Missouri Volunteers, charged the town from the front and carried by storm all the outward defenses up to the walls of the church. A simultaneous charge was to have been made on the left flank by a portion of the large force of volunteers stationed there beyond effective rifle range, but from some mistake the dragoons were first in the charging and for some time were exposed to the galling fire of the enemy through loopholes in the church and main buildings. It was during this period that Captain Burgwin received a mortal wound. The main force, however, coming up soon, carried the church and put many of the enemy to flight. The town was carried and the battle closed near night, having killed about 150 of the enemy.

I assumed command of the dragoons, being the next officer in rank and having served with them in all the engagements.

Capt. I. H. K. Burgwin died on the morning of February 7. In the action of the 4th Company G, First Dragoons, lost 7 killed and 16 wounded, exclusive of the captain.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

RUFUS INGALLS,

*Second Lieutenant, First Dragoons.*

Lieut. Col. C. WHARTON,

*Commanding First Dragoons, Fort Leavenworth, Mo.*

A true copy.

W. H. STANTON,

*Second Lieutenant, First Dragoons.*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT LEAVENWORTH,

*April 1, 1847.*

SIR: It is with more than ordinary grief that I herewith inclose an official report of the death of Capt. I. H. K. Burgwin, of the First Regiment Dragoons, who was mortally wounded in the battle of Pueblo de Taos on the 4th of February last.

Having known long and intimately the late captain, I can not forbear observing that for personal worth and professional excellence in his particular arm of service the deceased has left no superior behind him. The announcement of his death—this morning learned—has cast a gloom over the hearts of all at this post who ever knew him professionally or personally.

I transmit also a copy of a letter this morning received from Lieutenant Ingalls, now in command of the late Captain Burgwin's company, which furnishes a brief account of the affairs of the 29th of January near Embudo and of that of the 4th of February at Pueblo de Taos.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. WHARTON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel First Dragoons, Commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. JONES,

*Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.*

P. S.—I have just obtained and send you a printed sheet from the Government printing office at Santa Fe, giving details of the several affairs between our forces and the Mexicans up to the 15th of February last.

C. W.

[Reports on hostilities in vicinity of Las Vegas in the eastern part of Territory. Records War Department.]

HEADQUARTERS GRAZING DETACHMENT,  
*Las Vegas, January 23, 1847.*

SIR: Below is an account of the circumstances that have lately transpired in this region.

On the evening of the 20th instant myself and Lieut. N. J. Williams happened at this place just as the town had assembled in general council to hear the same circular read that has (been) forwarded to you from Taos. The alcalde of this (place) declared against the insurrection, and stopped the express and forwarded the letter to you. Early the next day I took possession of this place with part of my command and have ordered the balance to join me to-day. Lieutenant McKamey has also joined me with his forces. I have ordered the different grazing parties to rendezvous their stock about 7 miles below this place and the men to report themselves here ready for service as quick as possible.

News reached this place this morning that Messrs. Waldo, Culver, and two other Americans had been killed in Mora and that a United States grazing party had been cut to pieces night before last. Yesterday morning I started Lieutenant Hawkins, with 35 men, to find out what had become of some trains that I heard were on this side of the mountains, with orders to bring them in, if possible, as I consider it of great importance that they should be brought in safe.

My movements so far have been in anticipation of your orders, and have (been) such as to place the whole force in this section for offensive and defensive operation. I ordered Lieutenant McKamey to bring up the balance of his forces and some grazers that are near him to this place. To-morrow I expect to go against Mora with part of my force, where it is reported that the Mexicans are embodied. Our ammunition is very short, there only being about 10 rounds of cartridges and 25 pounds each powder and lead that I yesterday got from a Mr. Kid. It is of great importance that I should be quickly supplied.

If you will forward me one or two pieces of artillery, well manned, and plenty of ammunition, I pledge myself to subdue and keep in check every town this side of the mountains. Every town and village except this (I did not give it time) and Tuçoloti have declared in favor of the insurrection. The whole population appear ripe for the insurrection. I will try and keep you apprised of all movements in this quarter. It is said that a large force, probably 1,000 men, are marching from Taos toward Santa Fe, Toma, Ortes, and Archuleta at their head. The Mora men—I do not know what leaders they have, but hope to be better able to tell you in a few days.

I am collecting all the provisions I can at this point, for I think you will find that troops must be kept here, as it would keep San Miguel, Mora, and surrounding country in check.

If you conclude to forward me the artillery, send me word and I will meet it. I want permission to purchase corn to feed from 70 to 100 horses, as some mounted men will be required for two or three weeks. My force by to-morrow or next day will amount, including grazing parties and other Americans that have joined me for protection, to about 225 men, say 175 efficient men, out of which Lieutenant Hawkins is now absent with 35 men.

Hoping that you may approve of what I have already done and send me full instruction and plenty of ammunition,  
I remain your obedient servant,

I. R. HENDLY,  
*Captain Company G., Commanding at Vegas.*

Col. S. PRICE.

P. S.—The express sent by Lieutenant-Colonel Willock was attacked at the San Bernal Spring, and only escaped by deserting their mules and taking to the mountains afoot. The action against the population here I would suggest should be active and vigorous.

I. R. H.

JANUARY 23, 1847—2 o'clock p. m.

SIR: An express has just arrived from Lieutenant Hawkins, at the Mora River, that he had met Captain Murphy, escorted by a detachment of Captain Jackson's company. Lieutenant Hawkins will escort Captain Murphy from Mora to this place, and from here I will go with him myself until I meet an escort from Santa Fe, which I desire you will hurry on as fast as possible, and let them bring me the artillery if you conclude to send me any. Captain Jackson's men will return from the Mora to meet the trains, which are one day's march from that place. No fresh news about the Mexicans except Lieutenant Hawkins's report that a parcel of the Apache Indians have joined with the Mexicans. So Mr. Wells at the Mora has heard. The escorting of Captain Murphy will much impede my operations here.

Respectfully,

I. R. HENDLY, *Captain, etc.*

Colonel PRICE.

BAGAS (VEGAS), *January 25, 1847.*

SIR: The grazing parties of this part of the country have all assembled at Begos and we are about 250 strong. We learned a few days since that there were a force of Mexicans assembled at Mora town, and on yesterday we started up to that place with a force of 80 men under the command of Captain Hendly for the purpose of ascertaining their strength, and on our arrival we found that there were 150 or 200 men. We halted in the suburbs of the town and were consulting whether we would attack the town or not; and while we were consulting there 4 Mexicans came running down out of the mountains; 6 of us mounted our horses and aimed to cut them off from the town, but the Mexicans came running out to their relief and at that time Captain Hendly ordered the company to mount and charge on them; and they fired on us two or three times and then retreated to their fort, and we cut off 15 and took them prisoners.

We kept up a firing for a considerable length of time. After killing from 15 to 20 we commenced burning and tearing down their houses, and had succeeded in getting into one end of the fort—Captain Hendly, myself, and about 10 men—and fired on them ten or twelve times, when Captain Hendly received a shot and died immediately. We took him out of the room and carried him some 200 yards. It was then growing late, and being informed that there were from three to



five hundred troops started from that place on this morning for Santa Fe, and fearing that they might be called back, we retreated with our men and prisoners to Begos where we are well fortified, where we arrived with 3 men slightly wounded. If we had one or two pieces of artillery to scare them out of their dens we could whip all the Mexicans this side of the ridge.

Yours, in haste,

T. C. McKAMEY, *Lieutenant.*

Colonel PRICE.

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BAGAS (VEGAS), *January 25, 1847.*

I inclose to you Lieutenant McKamey's report of the battle of Mora town, which commenced this morning and lasted about three hours. I arrived here on the evening of the 23d and did not think it prudent to leave until the command returned from Mora town, which has just returned bringing the dead body of Captain Hendley, the only loss on our side. The loss on the part of Mexicans, so far as ascertained, is 15 killed and 15 prisoners, with whom I will commence my march on the 27th, and expect to arrive in Santa Fe on 30th instant. There is but one provision train on this side of the Raton Mountains. It will encamp at the crossing of the Mora to-morrow night. Mr. Campbell has gone with 15 men to procure fresh cattle to assist it to this place.

I have taken the responsibility to send Lieutenant Oxley, Company O, Second Regiment, in command of 18 men, from Mora back to protect the train, which I hope will prove satisfactory. Companies M and N grazing camps have been robbed of all their animals except five or six; no men killed. The animals at Bent farm have all been taken. Seven men killed at this camp; report says all volunteers, some of them belonging to Captain Jackson's company. The bearer of this will inform you of particulars not prudent to commit to writing.

Yours, respectfully,

W. S. MURPHY,  
*Captain, Int. Mo. Vols.*

P. S.—Romulus Culver, of Chariton; Ludlow Waldo, of Jackson; Mr. Prewit, of Santa Fe; Lewis Cabano, of Missouri, and four or five in company were taken prisoners, robbed, and shot at Mora town on or about the 20th of the month. The leader of the forces at that place is by the name of Cortez.

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HEADQUARTERS NINTH MILITARY DEPARTMENT,

*Santa Fe, July 20, 1847.*

SIR: Since the insurrection of January and February last, a body of Mexicans and Indians, embodied for predatory purposes, have been very annoying along the line of the eastern settlements of this Territory, where many of our grazing camps were established. They did not, however, venture an attack upon any of the detachments in that quarter until the 20th of May last, when the camp of Captain Robinson, separate battalion, Missouri Mounted Volunteers,

was surprised, and about 200 horses and mules were driven off. In this affair Captain Robinson lost 1 man killed and 2 wounded.

Information of these events was immediately sent to Major Edmonson, commanding at Vegas, who at once marched in pursuit of the marauders whom he found on the 26th June in a deep canyon on the Rio Colorado, or, more properly, the Canadian River.

Major Edmonson entered the canyon and a desultory fight ensued, for the particulars of which I refer you to the official report of the engagement, which is herewith sent. This unsuccessful attempt to recapture the lost animals has emboldened the Mexicans and Indians to commit further acts of aggression. On June 27 Lieut. R. T. Brown, Second Missouri Mounted Volunteers, with 2 volunteers and a Mexican guide started in pursuit of some horses which had been stolen at Vegas. Lieutenant Brown found the animals at Las Vallas, a small village about 15 miles south of Vegas, but upon his seizing them, the Mexicans resisted and murdered the whole party. As soon as Major Edmonson was informed of the massacre of this party he marched from Vegas, and, surprising the town, shot down a few who attempted to escape and took about 40 prisoners. These prisoners are now confined in this city awaiting their trial.

On the 6th of July the grazing camp of Captain Morin's company (Separate Battalion Missouri Mounted Volunteers) was attacked, Lieutenant Larkin and 4 men were killed and 9 wounded, and all the horses, besides property of every description, fell into the hands of the outlaws. Lieutenant-Colonel Willock, commanding at Taos, immediately marched in pursuit of them, but at length, finding it impossible to overtake them, returned to Taos.

The forces under my command are now so much diminished by the departure of the companies whose terms of service have expired, that I consider it necessary to concentrate my whole command at this city. Rumors of insurrections are rife, and it is said that a large force is approaching from the direction of Chihuahua. I am unable to determine whether these rumors are true or false, but it is certain that the New Mexicans entertain deadly hatred against the Americans, and that they will cut off small parties of the latter whenever they think they can escape detection.

General Orders, No. 14, have been received and promulgated, and it is probable that three or four companies, composed of discharged volunteers and teamsters, formerly in the employment of the assistant quartermaster, may be mustered into the service of the United States at this city.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STERLING PRICE,

*Colonel, Commanding the Ninth Military Department.*

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY,

*Washington, D. C.*

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CAMP NEAR SANTA CLARA SPRINGS, NEW MEXICO,

*June 14, 1847.*

SIR: In compliance with Orders, No. 187, May 16, I proceeded to Las Vegas with Companies B and F, Second Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers, and the detachment Laclede Rangers, commanded by Lieu-

tenant Elliott. Upon my arrival at San Magil I was informed that a large party of Shian and Apache Indians had gone to the mouth of the Moro on Red River to join a marauding party of Mexicans and others, numbering 300 to 400, and commanded by the outlaw Cortes, and that small detachments were being sent into the settlements to commit depredations on the property of the citizens and American soldiers. On my arrival at Las Vegas, May 20, being informed that a party of about 50 Indians were in the mountains 30 miles north, having with them about 200 stolen animals, I dispatched Company F, Captain Horine, in pursuit. On the same day Company B, Captain Dent, was sent to disperse a marauding party said to be about 40 miles south of this place.

On the evening of the same day I received information of the surprise of our grazing party under Captain Roberson near Wagon Mound by a party of Indians and Mexicans, in which we lost 1 man killed and 2 wounded, and about 250 horses. Being destitute of mounted men in consequence of the departure of the commands of Captains Horine and Dent on the morning previous, I immediately ordered in the grazing parties from the Ocató. I was thus enabled by the use of some Government animals to mount between 75 and 80 men, with which command I reached Captain Roberson's camp on the evening of the 24th. I there found Captain Brown (with 12 wagons laden with goods belonging to our settlers, Messrs. Rich and Pomroy), who had been attacked the previous day at Santa Clara Springs (8 miles distant) by the Indians, who made a desperate effort to get possession of the wagons. Failing in that attempt, they drove his oxen out of reach of gunshot and deliberately killed them to the number of between 60 and 70. The killing of the cattle was doubtless intended to detain the wagons and thus afford an opportunity to surprise and get possession of them. On the following morning, 25th, leaving about 30 men for the protection of the settlers' wagons, I organized two scouting parties, one under charge of Captain Holoway and the other under charge of Lieutenant Elliot, with direction to rendezvous at Santa Clara Springs the following night. We that day discovered where the enemy had corralled their animals a few days previous in the mountains, about 15 miles south of Santa Clara Springs, but had left in the direction of Red River. On the following morning, after forming an advance or spy party, under command of Captain Holoway, Company E, the remainder were formed into three platoons; No. 1, commanded by Captain Roberson; No. 2, by Lieutenant Elliot, and No. 3 by Lieutenant Brown, Company F. Thus organized, I proceeded to follow the trail discovered on the day previous to the canyon of Red River. I entered it with Captain Roberson's command, leaving the commands of Lieutenants Elliot and Brown behind, the company of spies going some fifty minutes in advance in order to prevent surprise. Descending into the canyon with great difficulty through the rocks, leading our horses and following the meanderings of the Indian trail about half a mile, I discovered three Indians secreted behind the rocks about 200 yards from our trail. Supposing that a large number might be there secreted, and having myself the advantage of the ground, I ordered a halt until the rear of the command should arrive. Whereupon the three Indians, who had no doubt been placed there as sentinels, made a rush for their horses, they being close at hand and ready saddled. They were immediately fired upon, killing one of them and unhorsing another; the two remaining Indians mounted one horse

and taus made their escape for the time. We then continued to descend to the bottom of the canyon, and with some difficulty effected a crossing of the river. Pursuing the tracks up the bank of the river, we passed the two Indians above spoken of, who immediately made a desperate attempt to reach the main body of the enemy, who were then in our rear, but were immediately pursued and both slain before they could reach their party. The hills around us were by this time literally covered with Indians and Mexicans, who witnessed the tragedy and opened a fire upon us from every point occupied by them. The bottom of the canyon was so narrow as to expose our men to the fire of the enemy from the hills on either side, which were very rocky and so nearly perpendicular as to render a charge impossible. I determined to recross the river in view of occupying some high points on the opposite side which would at all times command the outlet from the canyon, but the enemy, understanding the order, or anticipating it, got possession of the ford before the men could be rallied, who were somewhat scattered in the pursuit of the two Indians spoken of.

I then returned up the river some half mile and took possession of a point of rocks which was out of gunshot reach from the hills on the opposite side of the river, but being too far from the river to command access to water, I determined to occupy a point more favorably situated, in passing to which Lieutenants Elliot, Miller, and Sursey, who were in the rear, discovered a large party of Mexicans rapidly descending the hill (who had escaped my notice), rallied about 20 men and kept them in check until the main body got possession of the point last designated. The men were immediately ordered to dismount, conceal their horses as far as possible, and take advantage of the rocks until the enemy should approach sufficiently near to enable us to make a charge, sending at the same time a detachment to the bank of the river to secure the water and prevent the enemy passing up the canyon in our rear. Our troops being thus disposed of, the fight commenced at the three several points and continued without intermission about four hours, the enemy alternately advancing and retreating as new recruits arrived.

About sunset, having driven beyond our reach the Indians and Mexicans, finding a large portion of the troops out of ammunition, many of our men having ceased firing for want of it, and knowing that we would necessarily have to fight our way out of the canyon, as the enemy occupied the passes, I determined to reach the open ground at the top of the canyon before dark, which was effected in good order, except in fording the river, where the enemy, anticipating our movement, were concealed in considerable numbers, opened a hot fire, wounding two of our men and killing several horses. After crossing the river we returned the fire of the Indians and drove them back with the loss of 5 killed and several wounded. We then proceeded to the top of the hill in good order, reaching it at dark, whereupon our troops were immediately formed for action; but no enemy appearing, we marched to water and encamped for the night, in view of returning to the canyon the following morning. Our number in the engagement was 77. The number of the enemy could not be correctly ascertained, but have been variously estimated at from 400 to 600. Our loss was 1 man killed and 3 slightly wounded, while the enemy's loss was reported at 41 killed. The number of their wounded could not be ascertained, as they were removed off the field as fast as they fell.

On consulting with the officers the next day, 27th, and finding that that portion of our troops furnished by the grazing parties (composing much the largest portion of the command) were entirely out of ammunition, we were reluctantly compelled to suspend operations until a further supply could be obtained. Upon reentering the canyon we found that the enemy had left on the night after the battle in great haste, leaving horses, cattle, camp equipage, etc., not taking time to scalp or strip our man lost in the action, as is their custom. We pursued them with all possible dispatch to their first camping ground in their retreat, where, from appearances, they had made a division of their property and forces. We continued to follow their traces many miles in the plains, until, getting among large herds of mustangs or wild horses, it became impossible to track them farther. Our horses being much fatigued and tenderfooted from our travel over the rocks, we returned to our present camp near Wagon Mound. Since the 26th of May (as far as my knowledge extends) there has been no further depredations committed in or marauding parties infesting this portion of the Territory.

Respectfully, yours, etc.,

D. B. EDMONSON,

*Major, Commanding Detachment, etc.*

Col. S. PRICE,

*Commanding Army in New Mexico.*

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[Official public proclamations regarding insurrection. Records War Department.]

ARMY OF THE WEST—MASSACRE OF GOVERNOR BENT AND OTHER AMERICANS AT TAOS—BATTLES OF CAÑADA, ELEMBOA, TAOS, AND MORO—AMERICANS VICTORIOUS.

On the 13th of January, 1847, Charles Bent, governor of the Territory of New Mexico, left Santa Fe, the seat of government, for Taos, his place of residence. While there the friends of two Pueblo Indians who were confined in the prison at that place requested him to release them, to which he replied that, although governor of the province, it was entirely out of his power to release anyone confined by law until they were tried. They then resolved to release the prisoners by force and murder all the Americans in Taos, together with those Mexicans who had either accepted office under the American Government or were favorable to Americans. On the Tuesday following they effected their resolution, releasing the prisoners and barbarously murdering and scalping Governor Bent; Stephen Lee, sheriff; James W. Leal, circuit attorney; Cornelio Vigil (a Spaniard), prefect; Narcesses Beau-bien, and Parbleau Herrmeah, sparing but one American, named Elliott Lee. Leal was scalped alive. At the Arro Onlo, 12 miles from Taos, the following men fortified themselves in a house, and after standing a siege of two days were taken and murdered: Simeon Turly, Albert Cooper, William Hatfield (a volunteer), Louis Folque, Peter Robert, Joseph Marshall, William Austin, Mark Head, and William Harwood. The number of Mexicans and Indians engaged in this massacre has been estimated at 300.

On the morning of the 20th of January intelligence of the massacre of Governor Bent was brought to Santa Fe by an Indian runner. A



circular letter was also received by the priest at this place, stating that the Mexicans and Indians of Taos had risen against the invaders of their country, and requesting him to join them. This letter was handed to Colonel Price by the priest. Various reports reached this place of the advance of the enemy and their near approach. In consequence of these reports Colonel Price determined to march out of Santa Fe and meet them in the open field. He took with him 340 men, composed of Captain Angney's battalion of infantry, portions of six companies of the Second Regiment, and a company of citizens and mountaineers under the command of Captain St. Vrain, leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Willock in command of this post with a force composed of his own battalion, three companies of the Second Regiment, a portion of Captain Fischer's company of light artillery, and one company of regulars. On the evening of the 24th Colonel Price encountered the enemy at Cañada, numbering about 2,000 men, under the command of Gens. Jesus Tafoya, Pablo Chavez, and Pablo Montoya. The enemy were posted on the hills commanding each side of the road. About 2 o'clock p. m. a brisk fire from the artillery, under the command of Lieutenants Dyer (of the Regular Army) and Harsentiver, was opened upon them, but from their being so much scattered, it had but little effect.

The artillery were within such short distance as to be exposed to a hot fire, which either wounded or penetrated the clothes of 19 out of the 20 men who served the guns. Colonel Price, seeing the slight effect which the artillery had upon them, ordered Captain Angney with his battalion to charge the hill, which was gallantly done, being supported by Captain St. Vrain, of the citizens, and Lieutenant White, of the Carrol companies. The charge routed them and a scattering fight ensued, which lasted until sundown. Our loss was 2 killed and 7 wounded. The Mexicans acknowledged a loss of 36 killed and 45 taken prisoners. The enemy retreated toward Taos, their stronghold. Colonel Price, on the 27th, took up his line of march for Taos, and again encountered them at El Emboda on the 29th. They were discovered in the thick brush on each side of the road at the entrance of a defile by a party of spies, who immediately fired upon them. Captain Burgwin, who had that morning joined Colonel Price with his company of dragoons, hearing the firing, came up, together with Captain St. Vrain's and Lieutenant White's companies. A charge was made by the three companies, resulting in the total rout of the Mexicans and Indians. The battle lasted about half an hour, but the pursuit was kept up for two hours.

The march was resumed on the next day and met with no opposition until the evening of the 3d of February, at which time they arrived at the Pueblo de Taos, where they found the Mexicans and Indians strongly fortified. A few rounds were fired by the artillery that evening, but it was deemed advisable not to make a general attack then but wait until morning. The attack was commenced in the morning by two batteries under the command of Lieutenants Dyer and Wilson of the Regular Army, and Lieutenant Harsentiver of the light artillery, by throwing shells into the town. About 12 o'clock a. m. a charge was ordered and gallantly executed by Captain Burgwin's company, supported by Captain McMillan's company and Captain Angney's battalion of infantry, supported by Captain Barbee's company. The church which had been used as a part of the fortifications was taken

by this charge. The fight was hotly contested until night, when two white flags were hoisted, but were immediately shot down. In the morning the fort was surrendered. In this battle fell Captain Burgwin, than whom a braver soldier or better man never poured out his blood in his country's cause.

The total loss of the Mexicans in the three engagements is estimated at 282 killed; the number of their wounded is unknown. Our total loss was 11 killed and 47 wounded, 3 of whom have since died.

*Killed.*—Privates Messersmith, Graham, Papin, First Sergt. A. L. Caldwell, Private R. T. Bower, First Sergt. G. B. Ross, Privates Brooks, Levicy, Hansuker, J. Truax and Sergeant Hart.

*Wounded.*—Colonel Price, Capt. J. H. Burgwin (since died), First Lieutenant Van Valkenberg (since died), Captain McMillan, First Lieutenant Irwin, First Lieut. T. G. West, Lieut. J. Mansfield, Sergts. A. B. Aull, Caspers, J. Vanroe, Furguson, Corporals Jones and Ingleman, Privates Aulman, Murphy, Mezer, James Austin, A. Lewis, J. H. Calaway, John Nagle, J. J. Sights, Henry Fender, Johnson, R. Hewitt, Howser, Ducoing, J. Moon, Gibbons, J. L. Linneman, S. Blodgett, Crain, R. Deets, G. T. Sickenberg, Hagen baugh, Anderson, Beach, Hutton, Hillimae, Walker, Schneider, Shay, Near, Bremen, Bielfeldt, Jod, Kohn.

On the 25th ultimo Captain Hendly (of Colonel Willock's battalion), who was in command of the grazing parties on the Rio Moro, marched with 80 men to the town of Moro to suppress the insurrection there and arrest the murderers of Messrs. Culver, Waldo, Noyes, and others, who were massacred at that place.

He found a body of Mexicans under arms prepared to defend the town, and while forming his men into line for attack, a small party of the insurgents were seen running from the hills. A detachment was ordered to cut them off, which was attacked by the main body of the enemy. A general engagement immediately ensued, the Mexicans retreating to the town and firing from the windows and loopholes in their houses. Captain Hendly and his men closely pursued, rushing into their houses with them, shooting some, and running others through with bayonets.

A large body of the insurgents had taken possession of an old fort and commenced a fire from the loopholes upon the Americans. Captain H., with a small party, had taken possession of an apartment in the fort and, while preparing to fire it, was shot by a ball from an adjoining room. He fell, and died in a few minutes. Our men, having no artillery and the fort being impregnable without it, retired to Las Vegas. The enemy had 25 killed and 17 taken prisoners. Our loss, 1 killed and 2 or 3 wounded.

On the 1st instant, Captain Morin, who had been ordered from Santa Fe by Colonel Willock to succeed Captain Hendly in the command, proceeded with a body of men and one piece of cannon to Moro and razed the towns (Upper and Lower Moro) to the ground, the insurgents having fled to the mountains. Several Mexicans were captured, supposed to be concerned in the murder of Messrs. Culver, Waldo, and others, and after many threats were forced to show where the bodies were buried. Seven of them were found and carried to Las Vegas for interment.—Government Printing Office, Santa Fe, February 15, 1847.

The following reports and proclamations were made by Donaciano Vigil, who became provisional governor after the death of Governor Bent. (See Ex. Doc. No. 70, Thirtieth Congress, first session, p. 20 et seq.):

TRIUMPH OF PRINCIPLES OVER TURPITUDE.

*The provisional governor of the Territory to its inhabitants:*

FELLOW CITIZENS: The gang of Pablo Montoya and Cortez, in Taos, infatuated in consequence of having sacrificed to their caprice his excellency, the governor, and other peaceable citizens, and commenced their great work of plunder by sacking the houses of their victims, according to principles proclaimed by them, for the purpose of making proselytes, yesterday encountered in the vicinity of La Cañada the forces of the Government restorative of order and peace, and in that place, unfortunately for them, their triumph ended; for they were routed with the loss of many killed and 44 prisoners, upon whom the judgment of the law will fall.

Their hosts were composed of scoundrels and desperadoes, so that it may be said that the war was one of the rabble against honest and discreet men; not one of the latter has as yet been found among this crew of vagabonds, unless, perhaps, some one actuated by the fear of losing his life while in their power or of being robbed of his property. The Government has the information, and congratulates itself that within ten days the inquietude caused you by the cry of alarm raised in Taos will cease, and peace, the precursor of the felicity of the country, will return to take her seat on the altar of concord and reciprocal confidence.

The ringleaders of the conspiracy, if they should be apprehended, will receive the reward due to their signal crimes, and the Government, which for the present has been compelled to act with energy in order to crush the head of the revolutionary hydra which began to show itself in Taos, will afterwards adopt lenient measures, in order to consolidate the union of all the inhabitants of this beautiful country under the ægis of law and reason.

I hope, therefore, that, your minds being now relieved of past fears, you will think only on the security and protection of the law; and, uniting with your Government, will afford it the aid of your intelligence, in order that it may secure to you the prosperity desired by your fellow-citizen and friend,

DONACIANO VIGIL.

SANTA FE, *January 25, 1847.*

*The provisional governor of the Territory to its inhabitants:*

FELLOW CITIZENS: Your regularly appointed governor had occasion to go on private business as far as the town of Taos. A popular insurrection, headed by Pablo Montoya and Manuel Cortez, who raised the cry of revolution, resulted in the barbarous assassination of his excellency, the governor, of the greater part of the Government officials, and some private citizens. Pablo Montoya, whom you already know, notorious for his insubordination and restlessness, headed a similar insurrection in September, 1837. Destitute of any sense of

shame, he brought his followers to this capital, entered into an arrangement, deserted, as a reward for their fidelity, the unfortunate Montoyas, Esquibal, and Chopon, whose fate you know, and retired himself, well paid for his exploits, to his den at Taos. The whole population left the weight of their execration fall on others, and this brigand they left living on his wits—for he has no home or known property, and is engaged in no occupation. Of what kind of people is his gang composed? Of the insurgent Indian population of Taos, and of others as abandoned and desperate as their rebellious chief. Discreet and respectable men are anxiously awaiting the forces of the Government in order to be relieved from the anarchy in which disorder has placed them, and this relief will speedily be afforded them. In the year 1837 this mischievous fool took, as a motto for his perversity, the word “canton,” and now it is “the reunion of Taos!” Behold the works of the champion who guides the revolution! And can there be a single man of sense who would voluntarily join his ranks? I should think not.

Another of his pretended objects is to wage war against the foreign government. Why, if he is so full of patriotism, did he not exert himself and lead troops to prevent the entry of American forces in the month of August, instead of glutting his insane passions and showing his martial valor by the brutal sacrifice of defenseless victims, and this at the very time when an arrangement between the two Governments, with regard to boundaries, was expected? Whether this country has to belong to the Government of the United States or return to its native Mexico, is it not a gross absurdity to foment rancorous feelings toward people with whom we are either to compose one family, or to continue our commercial relations? Unquestionably it is.

To-day or to-morrow a respectable body of troops will commence their march for the purpose of quelling the disorders of Pablo Montoya, in Taos. The Government is determined to pursue energetic measures toward all the refractory until they are reduced to order, as well as to take care of and protect honest and discreet men; and I pray you that, hearkening to the voice of reason, for the sake of the common happiness and your own preservation, you will keep yourselves quiet and engaged in your private affairs.

The term of my administration is purely transitory. Neither my qualifications nor the ad interim character, according to the organic law in which I take the reins of government, encourage me to continue in so difficult and thorny a post, the duties of which are intended for individuals of greater enterprise and talents; but I protest to you, in the utmost fervor of my heart, that I will devote myself exclusively to endeavoring to secure you all the prosperity so much desired by your fellow-citizen and friend,

DONACIANO VIGIL.

SANTA FE, *January 22, 1847.*

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[Circular.]

SUPREME GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY.

When a father of a family neglects, or, more properly speaking, feigns not to perceive the misbehavior of his children, and permits them to escape merited punishment, their propensity to indulge in

excesses continually increases, until the habit is so confirmed that not even the severe punishment imposed by laws is sufficient to check them in the career which they have marked out for themselves; and the same is the case with a whole people under similar circumstances. Taos, whose beautiful valley rewards with abundant fruit the labors of industry, sheltered in her bosom a class of population wholly demoralized, the history of whose civil existence is a record of a series of crimes. In the year 1837, the flames of the revolution of La Cañada having been extinguished, they were kindled anew in this valley; the timely measures adopted by General Armijo to quench them, and the execution of some rebels who were taken between this and La Cañada gave peace to the country for a time, and order was, in appearance, reestablished; but as the rebels were not punished with due severity at the very places where they had confederated, nor subjected to the necessary restrictions, they remained unawed. Very soon, therefore, after their rout at the little gap these people of Taos began to manifest the evil intentions which they harbored in their bosoms, in consequence of the impunity of their first crimes and of those which they have successively committed, until that which they recently perpetrated with so much savage inhumanity, which has covered us with mourning and plunged us in grief and sad recollections.

In the year 1843 they rose and sacked the tithe granaries situated at various points in the valley of Taos, and the Government, shrinking from the duty of punishing this excess and castigating, at least, the principal culprits, approved, or, for some reason, so completely overlooked it, that no notice was taken of the affair. Encouraged by the impunity which attended this crime, in the beginning of July, in the same year, they reassembled with criminal views of a more enlarged nature; for they proposed to themselves and attempted, in the first place, to kill the few Americans and French who had married and settled among them; and although they did not consummate this, owing as well to want of unanimity among themselves as to their failing to effect a surprise, they sated their rapacity by plundering the stores and houses of the wealthiest foreigners. The local authorities, with the view of quieting the complaints of the injured individuals, commenced some proceedings which, from the mode in which they were carried on, necessarily led to no result. On this, application was made to the Government, but with the same result; and finally, after much expense and trouble, through the indifference and connivance of the said authorities and of the Government, the injured parties were ruined, and the miscreants who perpetrated the crime were left to enjoy, in absolute impunity, the fruit of their plunder.

The apathetic and criminal conduct of the previous administrations with respect to popular commotions gave so much encouragement to the perpetrators of these crimes that those who originated the plan of the revolution which has just been quelled found no difficulty whatever among the people of Taos, already adepts in such proceedings.

According to statements made by Indians of the town of Taos, who have appealed to the clemency of the commander of the forces employed in the restoration of order, the same Diego Archuleta who, in the middle of December, last year, planned a revolution in this city, which, being discovered in time by the Government, was quelled before it burst forth, is the individual who, before flying from the country, aided by the so-called Generals Pablo Montoya, Manuel Cortes, Jesus Tafova, and Pablo Chavez, instigated them to the insurrection



and proceedings which they carried into execution, and persuaded them that they might enter Santa Fe without resistance, and might subsequently with little trouble destroy or drive out of the country all the forces of the Government.

The individuals mentioned are, so far as now known, the chiefs of this band of murderers and thieves. Diego Archuleta fled in a cowardly manner from the territory before the commencement of the revolution which he himself planned and counseled, Chavez and Tafoya fell in the action, Montoya was executed at Taos, and the assassin Cortez is wandering a fugitive in the mountains. There are besides at the disposal of the tribunals various individuals arranged as accomplices, upon whom, if guilty, the judgment of the law will fall.

The Government troops triumphed over the rebels successively at La Canada, Embubo, and Taos, where the victory was decisive. There were killed in the field and town of Taos about 200 rebels; the remainder begged their lives and a pardon, which was granted them; and they were left at liberty to pursue their occupations in the security and peace which they themselves had disturbed.

In giving you information of recent occurrences, I have profited by the occasion to state in detail the misfortunes which have heretofore afflicted this Territory, and the causes to which they are to be attributed, in order that public officers engaged in the sphere of their duties may redouble their efforts to preserve order, and that good citizens may contribute by their influence, their talents, and their patriotism to the same object; and that they may exhort the people to industry—the only source of riches.

By these means, under the protection of a strong government, and of the just laws which govern us, you will be happy, and that what is most desired by your best friend.

DONACIANO VIGIL.

SANTE FE, *February 12, 1847.*

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SANTE FE, *March, 1847.*

SIR: Since my letter of the 16th February a number of persons engaged in the late rebellion have been brought to trial before the United States district court for this Territory. Antonio Maria Trujillo was found guilty of treason, and received the sentence of the court.

A petition was immediately laid before me, signed by the presiding justice, one of the associate justices, United States district attorney, the counsel for the defense, most of the members of the jury before whom the accused was tried, and many of the most respectable citizens, praying that the execution of the sentence of the court be suspended until a petition could be laid before the President of the United States for the pardon of the prisoner, on the ground of his age and infirmity.

Though felling assured that the accused had had a fair trial, and had been justly sentenced and legally convicted, I still feel justified in granting the prayer of the petition, signed as it was by the court and the jury before whom he was tried and convicted.

I am informed that a petition will be immediately forwarded to the President praying for the pardon of Trujillo on the ground above

stated. I trust the President will give the matter careful consideration. The prisoner is about 75 years of age, necessarily infirm, and evidently near the end of his days; and, although as the head of an influential family, much was done in his name to excite and forward the late rebellion, still, on account of his years and the near termination of his career, I can not but consider him a proper subject for the mercy of the Government.

The United States district court is still in session at this capital, having under trial three indictments for treason against three prominent persons in the late rebellion. Twenty-four prisoners have been discharged for want of testimony to indict them for treason, and also on the ground that they have been under the influence and deceived by the representations of men who had always exercised tyrannical control over them.

I am informed that there are upward of forty prisoners confined in the northern district awaiting their trial at the coming term of the United States district court for that district.

I can not do less than commend the diligence and at the same time the fairness and justice with which the tribunals of the Territory discharge their duties.

With the highest sentiments of esteem, truly, your obedient servant,

DONACIANO VIGIL.

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN,  
*Secretary of State, United States.*

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SANTA FE, *March 26, 1847.*

SIR: A few days since the colonel commanding received a deputation of principal men from the Navajo Indians, from whom he exacted a promise that all the prisoners and stock taken in their late marauding expeditions against the settlements of the southern district should be restored by the end of the present month.

I have no confidence of the fulfillment of the promise indeed, these Indians continue to commit daily outrages in the disregard of their promise. I hope measures will be immediately taken by the officer in command here to compel not only a restitution of property and prisoners, but to secure for the future respect for our arms and Government, and a lasting submission on the part of these turbulent savages. The interest and prosperity of the Territory urgently demands it.

In the late attacks of these Indians many citizens have been deprived of their all, and unless something be speedily done to prevent further depredations, the native citizens will have just cause to complain that the promises made to them by Brigadier-General Kearny, to the effect that they should be protected against these Indians, their ancient enemies, has been shamefully violated and disregarded.

It is with feelings of the highest gratification that I am able to announce that Col. A. W. Doniphan entered the city of Chihuahua on the 1st instant, having met the enemy on the day previous at Sacramento, some 18 miles from the city, upward of 4,000 strong, and in an action of three hours, with his command of 1,400 men, including the wagoners of the merchants' caravans, gained a victory almost

unprecedented in history, putting the enemy to flight, leaving 169 dead on the field, while the command lost only 2 killed and 7 wounded.

I can not close without again urging upon the Government the absolute necessity of replacing the present volunteer force in this territory by a force of Regular troops, on the ground of greater economy, expediency, and efficiency. In my opinion, both the interests of the United States and of this Territory clearly demand it.

With sentiments of the highest esteem, truly, your obedient servant,

DONACIANO VIGIL.

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN,

*Secretary of State of the United States.*

## REPORT ON THE INSURRECTION AGAINST THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN CALIFORNIA.

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

*Washington, D. C., May 31, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the incidents connected with the insurrection against the military government established by the United States in California.

The inhabitants of California at various places rose in revolt against the military government established over them, but with less sanguinary results than followed a similar insurrection in New Mexico. (Birkhimer on Military Government and Martial Law, p. 236.)

California was conquered and became subject to military occupation and government by the forces of the United States in 1846. (Cross v. Harrison, 16 How., 190.)

At Los Angeles and other points, the United States flag was torn down, and that of Mexico was hoisted in its place. In November, 1846, an action occurred at Domingos Rancho, between a party from the United States frigate *Savannah* and a body of Californians. The latter were fortified and supported by artillery. They gained an advantage over the sailors which raised their courage and excited their hopes.

In December, 1846, Commodore Stockton landed at San Diego, advanced to Los Angeles and reestablished American dominion and military government.

Soon after this a battle occurred between the Americans and General Kearny and the Mexicans at San Gabriel. In this engagement the Mexicans were defeated with loss, but on the American side several were killed and General Kearny wounded. (See Mansfield's Mexican War, p. 102.)

On May 30, 1847, General Kearny wrote to Colonel Burton, in command at Santa Barbara:

It is understood that the people of Lower California have not the power, if they possessed the disposition, to resist your command, but you must not on that account allow the discipline of your soldiers to relax, but hold them at all times ready to resist or make an attack. (See Senate Doc. No. 18, p. 294, Thirty-first Congress, first session.)

On June 18, 1847, Colonel Mason, commanding Tenth Military Department (California), reported to the Adjutant-General, United States Army:

The country still continues to be quiet, and I think will remain so, though the people dislike the change of flags, whatever may be said or written to the contrary, and in the southern part of Upper California would rise immediately if it were possible for Mexico to send even a small force into the country. Nothing keeps them quiet but the want of a proper leader and a rallying point.

I send you a map showing the positions occupied by the troops, the number at each station, and the estimated distance between the posts. You will perceive they are pretty well stretched out, but under existing circumstances it can not well be avoided. We must keep up a show of troops, however small in numbers, at the different points occupied. (Id., p. 297.)

About this time there came into notice one Mauricio Castro, who seemed calculated to become the recognized head of the insurrection; but he was captured at San Jose in April, 1848. Colonel Burton refers to him as "the self-styled political chief of Lower California." (See report of April 13, 1848, Senate Doc. No. 18, first session, Thirty-first Congress, p. 497.)

By January, 1848, the aspect of affairs became so serious that Colonel Mason, the military governor of California, determined to raise a regiment of volunteers for the protection of the government of which he was the head. On January 28, 1848, Colonel Mason wrote to Governor Abernethy, of Oregon:

From intelligence received here yesterday from Commander Shubrick \* \* \* I deem it of the utmost importance to raise a corps of 1,000 men to send to Lower California and Manzanita as early as practicable. (Id., p. 443.)

On the same day, in a letter addressed to Messrs. Swift, Ford & Thompson, Colonel Mason says:

From intelligence received here yesterday from Commodore Shubrick, who took Manzanita on the 11th of November, it becomes of the greatest importance to send him a land force as early as practicable to enable the United States to hold that port and the ports of La Paz and San Jose, in Lower California. \* \* \* Without the aid of this land force, the Commodore writes that the United States flag at San Jose and Manzanita will be hauled down. (Id., p. 445.)

On August 16, 1848, Colonel Mason reports to Gen. R. Jones, Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C., as follows:

HEADQUARTERS TENTH MILITARY DEPARTMENT,  
*Monterey, Cal., August 16, 1848.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose you herewith copies of reports made by Lieutenant-Colonel Burton and the officers under his command, the originals of which were received by me on the 15th of June last. These give a history of the suppression of the insurrection in the peninsula, which in its entire management reflects high credit upon all concerned. I can only draw your attention to the reports of Lieutenant Heywood's defense of San Jose; Captain Steele's rescue of the American prisoners at San Antonio, and of Lieutenant-Colonel Burton's attack upon the enemy at Todos Santos.

Copies of the reports above referred to are hereto attached.  
Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES E. MAGOON,  
*Law Officer, Division of Insular Affairs.*

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

S. Doc. 442—3

[Reports on the insurrection against the military government instituted by the United States in California. (See Senate Doc. No. 18, first session Thirty-first Congress, pp. 488-504.)]

No. 36.] HEADQUARTERS TENTH MILITARY DEPARTMENT,  
*Monterey, Cal., August 16, 1848.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose you herewith copies of reports made by Lieutenant-Colonel Burton and the officers under his command, the originals of which were received by me on the 15th of June last. These give a history of the suppression of the insurrection in the peninsula, which in its entire management reflects high credit upon all concerned. I can only draw your attention to the report of Lieutenant Heywood's defense of San Jose; of Captain Steele's rescue of the American prisoners of war at San Antonio, and of Lieutenant-Colonel Burton's attack upon the enemy at Todos Santos.

\* \* \* \* \*

R. B. MASON,  
*Colonel First Dragoons, Commanding.*

Gen. R. JONES,  
*Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.*

BARRACKS, LOWER CALIFORNIA,  
*San Jose, February 20, 1848.*

SIR: I continue my report from the 22d ultimo, from which time my force consisted of 27 marines and 15 seamen, of whom 5 were on the sick report, besides some 20 volunteers, Californians, who at least served to swell the numbers. From that date the enemy were continually in sight of us, intercepting all communication with the interior and driving off all the cattle from the neighborhood. A party of our own men who went out to endeavor to obtain cattle were driven in and narrowly escaped being cut off. We succeeded in obtaining a few cows, however, which were very necessary to us in the reduced state of our provisions, as, in addition to our garrison, we were obliged in humanity to sustain some 50 women and children of the poor, who sought our protection in the greatest distress. I found it necessary, as soon as our fresh beef was consumed, to put all hands on half allowance of salt provisions. We had no bread. On the 4th of February the enemy closed around us once more and commenced firing upon all who showed themselves at our portholes or above the parapets. On the morning of the 6th the enemy appeared to be a little scattered, a considerable force being seen riding about some distance from the town, and at the same time a strong party of them, posted at the lower end of the street, were keeping up an annoying fire upon us. I judged this a favorable opportunity to make a sortie upon them, and, taking 25 men with me, closed with them and dislodged them, driving them into the hills without the loss of a man on our part, and returned to the cuartel.

On the morning of the 7th it was reported to me that the enemy had broken into the houses on the main street, and there was some property exposed which might be secured. I took a party of men and went down and brought up a number of articles belonging to the Californians who were in the cuartel; some distant firing took place, but no injury was sustained. On the same day, hearing there were some stores of rice and tobacco in a house some 300 yards down the main street, I determined upon an effort to obtain them, and sallied out with



30 men; these were immediately fired upon from several different quarters, and some fighting ensued, resulting in the death of one of my volunteers—shot through the heart. We charged down the end of the street, and drove the enemy to the cover of a cornfield at the outside of the town, where they were considerably reenforced, and recommenced a hot fire; but we were enabled to save a part of the articles which we were in search of, though we found that the enemy had anticipated us in this object, having forced the building from the rear. On the afternoon of the following day Ritchie's schooner, having provisions for us from La Paz, came in sight and anchored, but a canoe which was enticed toward the shore by a white flag displayed by the enemy was fired upon, and the schooner immediately got under way. On the 10th the enemy had entire possession of the town; they had perforated with portholes all the adjacent houses and walls, occupying the church, and, hoisting their flag on Galindo's house, 90 yards distant, held a high and commanding position, which exposed our back yard and the kitchen to a raking fire, which from this time forth was almost incessant from all quarters upon us, the least exposure of person creating a target for 50 simultaneous shots. The enemy appeared to have some excellent rifles, among other arms; and some of them proved themselves tolerably sharp shooters, sending their balls continually through our portholes.

On the 11th the fire was warm, but on our part it was rarely that we could get sight of them. In the afternoon of this day we had to lament the death of Passed Midshipman McLanahan, attached to the United States ship *Cyane*. A ball striking him in the right side of the neck, a little below the thyroid cartilage, lodged in the left shoulder. He died in about two hours. He was a young officer of great promise, energetic, of much forethought for his age, and brave to temerity. All lamented his untimely fate and all bear willing testimony to his worth. On the morning of the 12th, at daylight, we discovered that the enemy had thrown up a breastwork upon the sand, about 150 yards to the northeast of the cuartel and entirely commanding our watering place. We fired several round shot at it with little effect. We succeeded in getting in some water at night, but at great hazard, the enemy being in strong force and kept a close watch upon us. Their force was over 300, speaking within bounds. I immediately commenced digging a well in the rear of Mott's house, which is the lowest ground. I found that we had to go through rock and judged we should have to dig about 20 feet. I thought it imprudent to blast, as the enemy, suspecting our intention, would throw every obstacle in our way. The men worked cheerfully on this and the succeeding day against all difficulties. Our situation was becoming now an imminently critical one, having, with the greatest economy, but four days' water. On the 14th we continued digging for water. We found that the enemy had thrown up a second breastwork, more to the westward, giving them a cross fire upon our watering place. There was a continual fire kept up upon the cuartel during the day. At 3 o'clock 30 minutes p. m. a sail was reported in sight, which proved to be the United States ship *Cyane*. She anchored after sundown. It was of course a joyful sight to us to see friends so near, but I was apprehensive that they could render us but little assistance, the enemy being so vastly superior in numbers. The enemy continued their firing upon us during the night.

On the 15th, at daylight, we became aware that the *Cyane* was landing men. They soon commenced their advance, which, for a few

moments, was opposed only by a scattering fire; then the enemy opened upon them in earnest. They had concentrated nearly their entire force near San Vincente. We saw the flash of musketry through all the hills above the village. There was the odds of three to one against our friends. Steadily they came on, giving back the enemy's fire as they advanced. There was still a party of the enemy occupying the town, firing upon us. I took 30 men and sallied out upon them, and marched out to join the *Cyane's* men, who, with Captain Dupont at their head, had now drawn quite near to us. There were small detached parties of the enemy still hovering about them, and firing at them, but the main body of the enemy had been broken, and retired to Las Animas, distant 2 miles. The march of the *Cyane's* men to our relief, through an enemy so vastly their superior in numbers, well mounted, and possessing every advantage in knowledge of the ground, was certainly an intrepid exploit, as creditably performed as it was skillfully and boldly planned, and reflects the greatest honor on all concerned. It resulted most fortunately for us in our harassed situation. They had but 4 wounded. This can not be termed anything but the most remarkably good luck, considering the severe fire that this heroic little band were exposed to. The loss of the enemy we have not positively ascertained; we hear of 13 killed, with certainty, and general report says 35; wounded not known. Of the total loss of the enemy in their attack upon the cuartel I can not speak with certainty. We have found several graves, and know of a number of wounded, one of whom we have in the cuartel a prisoner. I suppose their total loss to be not far from 15 killed, and many wounded; I am sure it could not be less than this. Our own total loss was 3 killed and 4 slightly wounded.

I regret to report the death of Passed Midshipman George A. Stevens, to whom, for his coolness and indefatigable zeal at a time when so much devolved upon him, I am most happy to accord the highest credit; and at the same time I must honorably mention the conduct of a volunteer, Eugene Gillispie, esq., who, although suffering from illness, never deserted his post, and was with me in the sortie of the 7th. The noncommissioned officers and men went through privation, unceasing watchfulness, and danger without a murmur. I can not express too highly my satisfaction in their conduct. Captain Du Pont, immediately upon his arrival here, becoming aware of our situation as regards provisions, took measures for our supply. The day after the battle of San Vincente he dispatched a train, which brought us by hand (the enemy having driven off all the mules and horses) a quantity of stores and articles of which we stood most in need, among the rest bread, and has since been unceasing in his exertions for our relief. I can not too earnestly express the obligations which we are under for the prompt and efficient assistance which Captain Du Pont, his officers, and crew have rendered us.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES HEYWOOD,

*Lieutenant, United States N., Commanding, San Jose.*

Lieut. Col. HENRY S. BURTON,

*United States A., Commanding Troops in Lower California.*

True copy:

W. T. SHERMAN,

*First Lieutenant, Third Artillery,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

UNITED STATES BARRACKS,  
*La Paz, Cal., March 10, 1848.*

SIR: I have the honor to continue my report of January 16, 1848.

From the arrival of the U. S. sloop of war *Cyane* at this place on the 8th of December, 1847, until the time of her departure, and the arrival of the U. S. storeship *Southampton*, February 11, 1848, nothing of particular importance occurred in this portion of Lower California; the enemy having removed the main body of their force to invest San Jose, leaving a few outposts on the roads leading to this place for the purpose of cutting off all our communications with the interior of the country.

On the 8th of February I received a communication from the commander of the Mexican forces, which is herewith inclosed with my reply, marked "A."

The arrival of the *Cyane* at San Jose was very opportune, as the gallant little garrison of that place was closely invested, and in a distressed condition.

The report of Lieutenant Heywood, United States Navy, commanding at San Jose, is herewith transmitted, marked "B." I can not omit this opportunity of expressing my own gratification, and that of my command, with the cordial cooperation, whenever necessary, of Captain Du Pont and his officers during the time the *Cyane* was here.

About the 13th of February we began to collect horses and saddles for the purpose of mounting a portion of this command.

On the night of the 26th of February Lieutenant Young, with a small party, surprised an outpost of the enemy about 7 leagues distant and captured three men.

On the night of the 26th of February Lieutenant Matsell, with a small party, surprised another outpost about 6 leagues distant and captured two more.

Captain Steele endeavored to surprise another outpost a few nights afterwards, but the enemy, receiving information of his movements in spite of his precautions, were not to be found.

\* \* \* \* \*

H. S. BURTON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel First New York Volunteers, Commanding.*

Lieut. W. T. SHERMAN,

*First Lieutenant, Third Artillery,*

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

True copy:

W. T. SHERMAN,

*First Lieutenant, Third Artillery,*

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES BARRACKS,  
*La Paz, Lower California, March 20, 1848.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the evening of the 15th instant, Captain Steele, New York Volunteers, commanding a party of First New York Volunteers, accompanied by Lieutenant Halleck, United States Engineers, Surgeon Perry, two foreigners, residents in the country, and three friendly Californians, acting as guides, aggregate 34, left this place with orders to attack an outpost of the enemy,

about 5 leagues distant; or if, from information received on the route, it should prove practicable to make a forced march upon San Antonio, the enemy's headquarters, and endeavor to rescue the American prisoners of war at that place.

The forced march upon San Antonio was made with great success; the enemy was surprised, several killed and wounded, two Mexican officers and one soldier taken prisoners, several arms and a small quantity of ammunition destroyed, the official correspondence and the flag of the enemy captured, one ambuscading party of the enemy defeated, and the command safe in La Paz within thirty hours from the time it started. Our loss was but of one man killed—that of H. Hipwood, sergeant in B Company. Several of the men had their clothes pierced by the enemy's shot; a ball entered the saddle of Captain Steele, and the horses of Lieutenant Halleck and Private Melvin, of B Company, were wounded in those engagements. All engaged in the expedition acquitted themselves with great credit; and particular praise is due to Captain Steele, who commanded the troops, and to Lieutenant Halleck, by whose advice and assistance the expedition was undertaken and so successfully executed.

Inclosed herewith is Captain Steele's report.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY S. BURTON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel New York Volunteers.*

Lieut. W. T. SHERMAN,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General,*

*Tenth Military Department, Monterey, Cal.*

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LA PAZ BARRACKS,

*Lower California, March 20, 1848.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in compliance with your order, I took command of the mounted force destined for an incursion into the interior. On the 15th, and between the hours of 9 and 10 p. m., we started. On examination I found our whole force to consist of 27 noncommissioned officers and privates, 3 officers (Surgeon Alexander Perry, Acting Lieutenant Scott, B Company, and myself), Lieutenant Halleck, United States Engineers, who kindly volunteered his valuable experience and services, and Messrs. Herman, Eherenberg, and Taylor, residents of this place, and 3 guides, Californians; aggregate, 34. On conferring with the officers, we were unanimous in the conclusion to proceed with all possible speed direct to San Antonio (the headquarters of the enemy) instead of attacking the advanced party at the ranch of Noviellas, with the principal object of rescuing the American prisoners of war confined there, and doing all else we could.

We took the route by the ranch of the Tuscalamas. Proceeding cautiously, we passed an outpost of some 50 men, without being observed by them, and reached the top of the mountain, overlooking and 8 miles distant from San Antonio, at daylight on the following morning, where we captured one of the "enemy's pickets" and, quickening our speed, we descended and passed up the arroyo to the east of the town, and, arranging the men, we charged into the town at full speed. A small party having been previously detailed to secure the persons of the officers of the enemy, the rest were directed against

the building occupied as a cuartel for the soldiers, and not finding any there, one of the liberated captives directed my attention to a building on the other side of the arroyo, to the east of the town, distant from the plaza about 150 yards, and commanding it (to which I afterwards learned the soldiers had been removed but the day previous, thereby deranging all our previous plans of attack), from which, with a small force of the enemy drawn up in front, a brisk fire of musketry opened upon us.

Having first gained our object in rescuing our men, besides taking two of their officers prisoners, I ordered the men to dismount and rally under cover of the church on the east side of the plaza.

The party sent to secure the officers were unsuccessful in securing the commandant (he escaped in his night clothes, having just arisen from his bed), but the second in command, Captain Calderon, and the adjutant, Lieutenant Arse, were taken, their flag and the private and public papers secured. When a sufficient number of our men had rallied, we sallied out and charged the enemy in position and drove them in all directions to the adjacent hills, killing 3 of their number and wounding 7 or 8. The rout of their force being complete, which we learned amounted to some 50 men, and being too tired to pursue them, we collected all the arms they abandoned (some 30), their trumpet, bullet molds, etc., destroyed them and left them in the plaza, as it was impracticable to carry them with us.

I have to record the loss of one of our number, Sergt. Thomas M. Hipwood, of B Company, who fell dead in the charge, pierced by a bayonet and two balls. "A better and a truer man never fell in his country's service or the performance of his duty, and his loss will ever be lamented by those who knew his worth."

Pantaloon, cravats, hats, horses, saddles, attest the numerous narrow escapes, but none wounded.

Not more than half an hour elapsed before we were on our way back. We halted at a ranch after traveling some 10 miles (owing to the accession of our number of men, and but one or two horses, many had to walk that distance) for the first time to refresh. In two hours we were on our way again, but little recruited in strength. Proceeding slowly we reached the mountain pass of Trincheras a little before sunset and were just entering an arroyo, bordered by elevated banks and a thick growth of underbrush, when a fierce fire of musketry opened upon us in front; a dismount and rally in front was but the work of an instant, the men standing fire like veterans. I ordered the advance guard to deploy the right and left who drove them from tree to tree and hill to hill, while the main body proceeded slowly, leading their horses, until we had passed the dangerous ground when we mounted and took a different road, diverging to the right, which would make the distance much farther, but the traveling much safer.

There was none wounded on our side. One of the captives, Captain Calderon, received a severe wound from a rifle ball in the right breast from the fire of the enemy, which did not prevent his riding, however; the horses received several wounds but not so as to disable them. The loss on the part of the enemy was some 5 or 6 killed and wounded. We continued our march, proceeded some 3 miles farther, when our rear guard was attacked, but on firing one musket at them they scampered off, and scarcely a charge ensued. We proceeded cautiously, but our horses were getting now so fatigued that they would lie down, and



it was with the greatest perseverance and exertion that we continued advancing, but finally arrived at the barracks on the morning of the 17th at 2 a. m.

Having accomplished the extraordinary distance of 120 miles (the route we took) in less than thirty hours on the same horses, with but little food or refreshment, stopping but once to feed, through the most rocky country and the roughest road that can be traveled, and by men, many of them totally unused to riding, and without any previous preparation, I can not express in terms too commendatory the coolness and bravery displayed by the men of my command. Acting Lieutenant Scott, B Company, Sergeant Peasley, A Company, and Sergeant Denneston, B Company, were conspicuous.

To Surg. Alexander Perry, Lieutenant Halleck, United States Engineers, most sincere thanks are due for their counsel and assistance. And to Mr. Herman Ehrenberg, "my volunteer aid," to say that he fully sustained that reputation for gallantry, coolness, and bravery that has been awarded to him on former occasions, is enough. And to Luz, Morano, and to Juan de Dios Talamantis, our Californian guides, I am greatly indebted. Their bravery and fidelity deserve to be duly appreciated.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

SEYMOUR G. STEELE,

*Captain First New York Regiment, Commanding.*

Lieut. Col. HENRY S. BURTON,

*United States Army, Commanding United States Forces, etc.*

UNITED STATES BARRACKS,

*La Paz, Cal., April 13, 1848.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 1, 1848, and to report the arrival of the army storeship *Isabella* at this place on the 22d of March, 1848, with Captain Naglee's company (1) New York volunteers, and 114 recruits for the detachment of New York volunteers stationed at this place.

The rescue of the prisoners of war on the 15th ultimo caused great excitement among the enemy, and tended very much to disorganize their forces, and the important arrival of the reenforcements to my command determined me to take the field as soon as possible; accordingly, I left this place on the morning of the 26th instant with 217 officers and men; Lieutenant Halleck, United States Engineers, acting chief of staff, and Passed Midshipman Duncan, United States Navy, temporarily attached to the mounted portion of Captain Naglee's command.

The afternoon of the 27th a party of 15 men captured, in San Antonio, Pineda, the commander of the Mexican forces, with his secretary, Serano.

The morning of the 29th, having received information that the enemy had concentrated their forces in Todos Santos, we pressed on with all speed, fearing they might evade us, by retreating toward Magdalena Bay. The morning of the 30th, about 10 o'clock, having received accurate information respecting the enemy, Captain Naglee, with 45 mounted men, was dispatched to intercept the road leading from Todos

Santos to Magdalena Bay, and, if practicable, to attack the enemy in the rear at the same time our main body made its attack in front.

The road leading from Todos Santos to La Paz, for some distance before reaching the first-named place, passes through a dense growth of chapparal (very favorable for an ambush), and in this the enemy made their arrangements to receive us. We left the road about 5 miles from Todos Santos and marched along a ridge of high land on the north side of the river, having full view of the enemy's operations.

They then took possession of a commanding hill directly in our route, between 3 and 4 miles from Todos Santos, with their Indians in front. Companies A and B, under the direction of Lieutenant Halleck, were deployed as skirmishers in such a manner as to expose the enemy to a cross fire. The enemy opened their fire at long distance, but our force advanced steadily, reserving their fire until within good musket range, when it was delivered with great effect, and the enemy retreated very rapidly, after a short but sharp engagement. At this time, Captain Naglee, being near Todos Santos and hearing the firing, attacked the enemy in the rear, and after a severe action completed the dispersion. Our men and horses being too much fatigued by their long march to pursue the scattered enemy, we marched on to Todos Santos.

The loss of the enemy in this engagement can not be ascertained with any accuracy; we know of 10 killed and 8 wounded. One man and the horse of Acting Lieutenant Scott were slightly wounded, the enemy, as usual, firing too high.

Our officers and men fully sustained the character they won on the 16th and 27th of November last.

My warmest thanks are due to Lieutenant Halleck for his assistance as chief of staff, and I present him particularly to the notice of the colonel commanding for the able manner in which he led on the attack on the 30th ultimo.

Captain Naglee also deserves particular notice for the energetic and successful manner in which he fulfilled his instructions. A copy of his report is herewith inclosed.

On the 31st ultimo Captain Naglee, with 50 mounted men of his company, was ordered to pursue the enemy in the direction of Magdalena Bay. He returned to La Paz on the 12th instant, having pursued the enemy very closely, capturing 5 prisoners and some arms.

Lieutenant Halleck started for San Jose with a party of mounted men, consisting of 1 officer and 25 noncommissioned officers and privates, on the 5th instant, for the purpose of communicating with Captain Dupont, commanding U. S. sloop of war *Cyane*. He returned here on the 11th instant, having captured 10 prisoners on his march and taken a number of arms.

From him I learn that the naval force at San Jose have thirty odd prisoners, and among others Mauricio Castro, the self-styled political chief of Lower California. Lieutenant Selden, with a party from the *Cyane*, made a most opportune march on Santiago, where he captured a number of the enemy who had fled from the field of Todos Santos. Castro, who commanded the enemy's forces in the action on the 30th, was arrested near Maria Flores by the civil authorities and delivered up to Lieutenant Selden.

During the stay of our main body at Todos Santos 14 prisoners were captured, among them two sons of the reverend padre, Gabriel Gonzales, officers of the Mexican forces.

We left Todos Santos on the 5th instant and arrived at this place on the 7th. The result of this short campaign has been the complete defeat and dispersion of the enemy's forces.

We have captured their chief and 6 officers and 103 noncommissioned officers and privates, and others are daily presenting themselves to the civil authorities in different parts of the country.

The captured arms have been given to those rancheros known to be friendly to the interests of the United States for their protection.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

HENRY S. BURTON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, New York Volunteers.*

Lieut. W. T. SHERMAN,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General,*

*Tenth Military Department.*

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TODOS SANTOS, *March 30, 1848.*

I have the honor to report that after receiving your verbal order at 10 o'clock a. m. this day, "to select the men" from "those of my company that were mounted, whose horses would be able to carry them more expeditiously to the junction of the road, by the arroyo Muelle, at its mouth, with the road from Todos Santos, in the direction of Magdalena Bay, one league and a half from Todos Santos, and there ascertain whether the enemy had passed toward Magdalena Bay, and if so, to follow them; or, if still remaining at Todos Santos, to attack them or not, at my discretion." I selected 45 men, and at 1 p. m. arrived at the point designated, where I received information that the whole of the Mexican forces, numbering from 200 to 300, were lying in position on the main road leading out to Todos Santos, and about half a league from it. I immediately dispatched a courier to you with this information, adding my determination to attack him in the rear about the time you should approach from the front. The men and horses were then allowed one hour's rest—the latter having been fifty-six hours without feed. At 2 p. m. we again mounted; at 3 passed through Todos Santos, and passed as rapidly as our horses could bear us toward the point occupied by the enemy, who had been informed of our approach. When half a league without Todos Santos we discovered a body of cavalry posted, partly concealed, among a heavy growth of cactac, at the foot of a steep ridge, and a body of Indians and Mexicans in line along its summit—in all, about 120. The detachment was ordered into line within 50 yards of the first, and whilst forming, and before it could be dismounted, received the fire of those at the foot of the ridge, who retired toward those at the summit, where they were joined by a large number who came precipitately from the other side.

The detachment, after leaving a guard of 10 men with the horses, was marched by a steep, rocky path halfway up the side hill, it being the only approach, and there deployed to the right and left and charged upon the summit. The enemy continued their fire until we had approached to within 50 yards and commenced firing, when they broke and ran. They were pursued until they were completely routed, and until fearing my command was becoming too much scattered among the immense cacti with which the surface of the whole country is

covered, they were recalled, and we returned to this place by 5.30 p. m.

A number of the bodies of the enemy was found, but it is impossible to say what was their loss. A number of their horses and a quantity of their baggage was captured.

Our thanks are due to First Lieut. George H. Pendleton, of my company, and to Passed Midshipman James M. Duncan, of the United States Navy, for the very satisfactory manner that they performed every duty.

Of the men, I could not in justice to them say less than that volunteers never behaved better.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY M. NAGLEE,

*Captain, First New York Regiment, Commanding Detachment.*

Lieut. Col. H. S. BURTON, *Commanding.*

LA PAZ, LOWER CALIFORNIA, *April 16, 1848.*

SIR: Inclosed herewith I send you Captain Naglee's report of his operations from the 30th of March, 1848, when he left Todos Santos, until the 14th instant, when his whole command arrived here, with a copy of my instructions to him; attached also is a copy of General Scott's General Orders, No. 372, of 1847.

Before leaving Todos Santos Captain Naglee held much conversation with Lieutenant Halleck and with me respecting the fourth article of those general orders, and he was distinctly told, particularly by Lieutenant Halleck, that if he took any prisoners they could not be shot without the sanction of a council of war; and that he (Captain Naglee) could not, under the circumstances, order such council.

From San Ilarion, April 8, 1848, Captain Naglee reported to me, and I considered the report, approving of the course he had thus far pursued and directing him to return to La Paz.

On the 11th of April, 1848, I received a communication from Captain Naglee, which is herewith inclosed with my reply. Captain Naglee did not receive the reply, as the courier could not find him.

When within a mile or less of La Paz the two prisoners—Juan Jose Brule, a Mayo Indian, and Antonio Keyes, a Californian and a resident of La Paz—were shot by order of Captain Naglee, in my opinion in direct violation of General Scott's order No. 372, and of my instructions to him. The case is thus laid before the colonel commanding, for his decision and opinion as to the course to be pursued respecting it.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY S. BURTON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, New York Volunteers.*

Lieut. W. T. SHERMAN,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Tenth Military Department.*

CARISALO, *April 11, 1848.*

SIR: We arrived here yesterday at 3 p. m., intending to push on to La Paz, but our animals are so tired that I am compelled to remain here until this afternoon, and will hope to get to La Paz during to-morrow morning.

I have no other news to communicate except that the country has been well cleared of its cursed vermin, and that there are not half a dozen Taquies south of Punification. I have 5 prisoners with me, but shall shoot 2 of them when near La Paz, in sight of the ruin that they have caused. I have sent with this a note to Lieutenant Penrose for 150 rations of hard bread and 150 rations of coffee. Mr. Pendleton will not get here before to-night, and will not be able to leave here before to-morrow evening.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. NAGLEE.

Lieut. Col. H. S. BURTON,  
*Commanding, La Paz.*

A true copy.

HENRY S. BURTON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, New York Volunteers.*

LA PAZ, LOWER CALIFORNIA, *April 11, 1848.*

SIR: In your unofficial note of to-day you mention your intention of shooting two of your prisoners when near La Paz, in sight of the ruin they have caused. I am under the impression that your instructions will not admit of this course. You will therefore bring all of your prisoners to La Paz.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

HENRY S. BURTON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, New York Volunteers, Commanding.*

Capt. H. M. NAGLEE,  
*New York Volunteers.*

A true copy.

W. T. SHERMAN,  
*First Lieut., Third Artillery, Act'g Asst. Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DETACHMENT  
NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS,  
*Todos Santos, March 31, 1848.*

SIR: You will leave this place this afternoon at 4 o'clock, with the mounted men from your company, for the "Cunano," distant about 50 miles, on the road to Magdalena Bay, for the purpose of intercepting any of the enemy's forces which may move in that direction. On arriving at that place you will be guided in the course then to be pursued by such information as you may obtain, it being the object to follow and cut up the scattered forces of the enemy wherever they may be found. And even before reaching "Cunano" you will be at liberty to change your direction if, in your opinion, circumstances justify you in doing so. If you should not again join the main body you will proceed to La Paz after having accomplished, so far as you may be able, the object indicated above. The movements of the main body will depend entirely upon the information respecting the enemy's position; but it is hoped that



you may be able to communicate to headquarters anything you may learn of the enemy's operations. In your treatment of the Taquies you will be governed by General Orders, No. 372, of 1847, of General Scott's, regarding them as robbers and murderers who are bound by no civilized rules of warfare.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY S. BURTON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel First New York Volunteers, Commanding.*

Capt. H. M. NAGLEE,

*First New York Volunteers.*

The undersigned would respectfully report that he received the above order at 4 o'clock p. m., on the 31st of March, and at 5 o'clock p. m., with fifty men, left Todos Santos to pursue the enemy. We had scarcely commenced our march when it was discovered that the guide upon whom we were most trusting for our information, and who resided at "Cunano," had not joined us. The interpreter was sent back to advise you of this fact, but nevertheless this guide did not join us. When near the mouth of the arroyo Muelle, we were informed that Jose Rosa Merina, a Mexican officer, with 16 men, and Colegial, the Taqui chief, with 26 Indians, had gone toward "Carisalle" to wait for others to join them. We were informed that the distance to Cunano was 55 miles, by a heavy sandy road, without a habitation or drop of water. We had but three days' provisions; and the animals, although they had rested twenty-four hours, had filled themselves with the stocks of the green corn and sugar cane, and were not in a condition to travel the road to "Cunano." I therefore concluded to take the road to "Carisalle," and thence by the road to "Aripes," near La Paz, where I could order in advance an additional supply of provisions, and proceed to San Ilarius and "Aqua Colorado," where all the enemy must necessarily pass who were retreating toward "Mulige."

On the morning of the 1st of April we reached "Carisalle," 36 miles from "Todos Santos," but were disappointed in learning that the forces above referred to had passed during the night without stopping, and a few hours afterward, while the men were sleeping, a small party of cavalry made their appearance, and were pursued, but they ran into the cactac, and it was impossible to follow them. At 6 p. m. we were mounted, and followed the trail of the previous night for about 6 miles, when it left the road and entered the cactac, and we afterwards learned they had been advised of our pursuit, and changed their route.

On the morning of the 2d we arrived at the "Aripes," and were here detained unnecessarily twenty-four hours waiting for a detachment that had been dispatched in advance for provisions. They returned on the 3d and reported the capture of two Mexican soldiers at Refugio. During the 3d we passed through "Rodrigues, El Caxon de los Reys," and at midnight reached "Los Reys."

On the evening of the 4th we arrived at Guadalupe, and, leaving 25 men with Lieutenant Pendleton, with the remainder we pressed forward for "San Ilarius." When within 9 miles of that place we were informed that a party of 50 Taquies had passed from "San Ilarius" to "La Junta," and we at once turned in that direction. At 4 p. m. of the 5th, after having searched all the places where the Indians would have stopped, we approached the last hut, and the

only one of the four in "La Junta" that had not been deserted, and discovered the fires of the Indians, which were 200 yards from the house and on the other side of a lagoon, around which it was necessary to pass. We dismounted, and, with 15 men, were in the act of surrounding them, when one of the guides discharged his musket, which awakened the Indians; we charged in upon them, but it was too dark to use powder and ball, and they made their escape. We, however, succeeded in capturing all their horses, arms, and ammunition, and in taking two prisoners, which were afterwards ordered to be shot.

In consequence of the outrages that this band of Indians were committing, and the impossibility of my overtaking them (for I could not obtain fresh horses), I considered some extraordinary effort absolutely necessary to drive them out of the country, and at the same time to reassure the "rancheros," who were so much intimidated by the diabolical acts of these villains that many of them had left their houses and concealed their families and the little property they could carry with them in the mountains. I therefore called upon the authorities and rancheros (see the copy attached) to arrest them in their flight, and sent a detachment of a sergeant and 9 men, in company with Don Juan de Dios and Don Questis, responsible Mexican friends, to pursue the Indians as far as "Punification."

It being impossible for our tired horses to go farther, suffering for the want of food, barely living upon sprouts of the mesquit tree, and there being no water at the places I have named—frequently 30 and 50 miles apart—and learning that a number of Mexican officers with 30 to 40 men were concealed near San Antonio, I determined to return, and on the 6th I ordered Lieutenant Pendleton to take the road by "Agua Colorado," while I took that to "San Ilarius," and to meet at "Coneja," where the roads join.

On the 7th I learned that two Mexican soldiers were concealed about the premises of Don Juan Gomez De Ayer, a Portuguese, living at San Ilarius. He denied any knowledge of them until he was placed in arrest and ordered to be taken to La Paz, when he had them produced. One of them had been wounded at San Jose.

On the morning of the 8th we reached Coneja, 40 miles, and Lieutenant Pendleton joined me and brought one prisoner that one of his patrols had taken near Agua Colorado. On the 9th we entered Cunano, 18 miles. Here, as at Coneja, both on the Pacific coast, we found a little very brackish water and some salt grass of two years' standing, there having been no rain during that time. We learned that there had passed, in all, about 90 persons during the 2d and 3d; that none had passed since; that the greater part of these had been driven from the other roads in consequence of our close pursuit, and they were so much pressed, knowing they would have no quarter, that many of them had thrown away their arms.

On the morning of the 10th we entered Carisalle, 45 miles, without water or grass, and hearing of the surprise of the Mexicans near San Antonio by Lieutenant Selden, of the *Cyane*, we rested our tired men and animals during the 11th, and on the 12th returned to La Paz, and Lieutenant Pendleton and Sergeant Roach on the 14th, the former bringing three and the latter two prisoners.

Although not so fortunate as to come in close contact with many of the enemy, we have at last succeeded in preventing any reunion and in keeping them moving toward Loretto and Mulige, toward which points they have proceeded with the most astonishing rapidity. Since

the evening of the 31st of March we have passed over all the road and searched all the ranchos between Todos Santos and La Paz, and as far north as Punification, and cleared that part of the country with the ruin that threatened to destroy its vitality.

During the pursuit we have traveled 350 miles over a road—or rather a path, for there are nothing but narrow mule paths in any of Lower California—through a worthless waste of sandy, rocky country, literally covered with the cactac and various species of leafless thorn bushes, so closely matted together that none but a Californian with his leather clothes and armor on can pass through them. The sun was so hot that we could not travel under it, and there was no water except at the places named, which was frequently so brackish that the thirst was increased more than diminished; at these places we found one and never more than two miserable huts, in which the occupants barely existed upon some milk and meat, and the cattle so exceedingly poor that they could hardly sustain their frames.

My command suffered much from the burning sun, dust, and the want of their full rations, living upon nothing but hard bread and fresh beef, and more than half the time upon the latter alone.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY M. NAGLEE,  
*Captain, First New York Regiment,*  
*Commanding Detachment.*

HENRY S. BURTON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, First New York Regiment,*  
*Commanding, etc.*

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To all whom it may concern:

Know ye that authority is hereby given, and the authorities and rancheros are hereby required, to arrest, and in the arrest to use any force that may be required, even to the taking of life, in order to bring to immediate punishment a number of banditti who are known by the name of Taquies, and who have committed robbery, arson, murder, and rape, and are now committing the most infamous crimes through the whole country, and in consequence of which they have been declared outlaws and their lives forfeited. Any prisoners that may be taken will be delivered to the nearest United States forces, and any lives that may be necessarily taken under this authority will be reported to the commanding officer of the United States forces at La Paz.

Given under my hand at Junta, Lower California, this 5th day of April, A. D. 1848.

HENRY M. NAGLEE,  
*Captain, First New York Regiment,*  
*Commanding Detachment New York Volunteers.*

(To the authorities and rancheros at Cayote, Punification, etc., to Mulige.)

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LA PAZ, LOWER CALIFORNIA, *April 17, 1848.*

SIR: I have the honor to send you herewith (in duplicate) returns for this post for the months of January, February, and March, 1848, and a copy of the written orders issued during the same period.

I am happy to report that the defeat and dispersion of the enemy on the 30th ultimo has been complete, and seems to have concluded the insurrection here.

The southern part of the peninsula is perfectly quiet. It is rumored that a party of the enemy has reunited at Mulige, but not in sufficient force to be effective. The present force in Lower California is thought to be sufficient to keep the country quiet, provided our squadron can prevent communication with the coast of Mexico for the purpose of bringing over arms, ammunition, and men.

To-morrow nine prisoners of war, among them Manuel Pineda, the late Mexican commander in this country, and the reverend padre, Gabriel Gonzales, with his sons, will be sent to Mazatlan.

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HENRY S. BURTON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, New York Volunteers.*

Lieut. W. T. SHERMAN,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General,  
Tenth Military Department.*

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